J S
3260
.T4

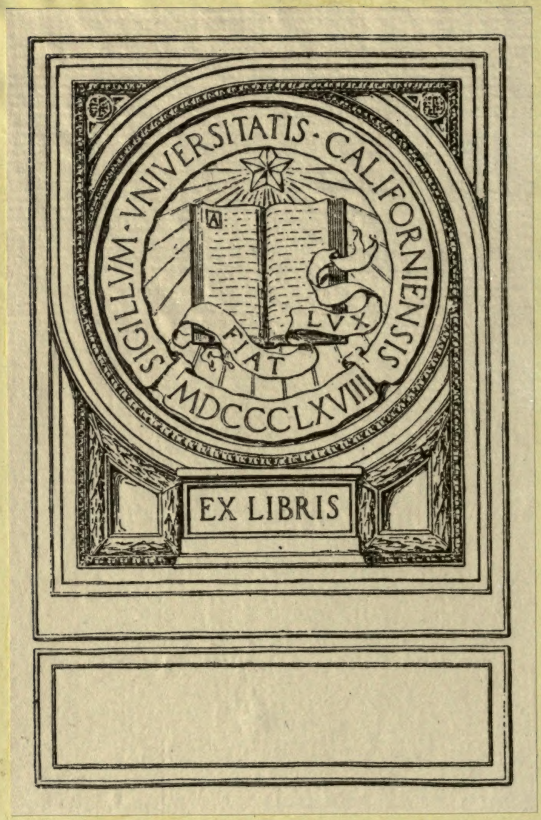
WHAT COUNTY COUNCILS CAN DO FOR THE PEOPLE.

— BY —

ALDERMAN W. THOMPSON.

UC-NRLF
$B 50 344

YC 39498


SIGILLVM · VNIVERSITATIS · CALIFORNIENSIS
FIAT LVX
MDCCCLXVIII
EX LIBRIS

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2007

http://archive.org/details/whatcountycounci00thomrich

WHAT COUNTY COUNCILS CAN DO FOR THE PEOPLE.

8914

— BY —

ALDERMAN W. THOMPSON,

Author of "The Housing Handbook," "Housing Up to Date," "Handbook to the Housing and Town Planning Act."

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

Published by P. S. King & Sons, 2 & 4, Great Smith Street, S.W.,
and by
The Rural Development Society, 16, Queen's Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

1910.

JS 3260
.T4

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Allotments	22
Bridges	33
County Council A B C	48
Credit Banks	29
Development Act	37
Education	14
Elections	44
Elementary Education	16
Finance	9
General Work	8, 38
Higher Education	18
Housing	30
Main Roads	33
Police	21
Powers and Duties	5
Rates	10
Small Holdings	22
Work and Wages	36

INTRODUCTION.

The great social question occupying the minds of leading reformers of all shades of opinion in England to-day is how best to establish and regulate a proper system of National Development which shall provide, so far as possible, for the organised dispersion of the population of overcrowded centres, and which shall arrest the depopulation of the countryside.

The undue growth of huge insanitary areas, misnamed cities, with crowds of unemployed or unemployable workers, is accompanied by a deserted countryside with labour-starved land, where the fresh air, sunlight and fertile soil are reserved more largely for the beasts of the field than for the full and beneficial use and enjoyment of our millions of teeming humanity. During the last decennial census period there were 2,667,506 persons living in 392,414 overcrowded dwellings, and no less than 507,653 persons living in dwellings consisting of only one room ; while during the same period 500,654 persons left the villages for the towns, aggravating and intensifying the evils of overcrowding and unemployment.

Food which might easily and profitably be grown in England is bought from other countries instead of being grown at home. We imported from abroad last year over £52,000,000 worth of butter, bacon, eggs, poultry, and cheese, which could have been largely produced by an army of small holders in England if we could successfully colonise rural England by giving the labourer a chance to get a piece of land, and live on and from the soil. The work done in this direction by Earl Carrington, both as a landlord and as a Minister, has been invaluable, but it needs to be extended and to receive far more encouragement and assistance from local authorities.

The developments that are taking place in the transmission and storage of electric power point to big movements or at any rate great possibilities in the direction of decentralised industries linked with adjacent up-to-date agricultural settlements. They will make it possible by schemes under the Development Act, 1909, not only that industries may be carried on by electric power at distances from the centre, but also that there shall be a great cheapening and improvement of the means of transit for both goods and passengers.

For good or evil this work of England Development in its various forms has been entrusted to County Councils, and it becomes necessary to give more attention to the work of these bodies in future and to see that these important new powers and duties shall be administered in the spirit of the policy which underlies the various Acts with whose administration they are so largely concerned. In order to attain this end it will be necessary to secure the presence of

298558

a direct democratic element on County Councils, and this can only be effectively done through the provision, by Parliament or otherwise, of travelling expenses for men of small or moderate means.

The democracy, however, are practically unrepresented on provincial County Councils, and take little or no interest in their work, except that in recent years there have been spasmodic but despairing growls at the unwillingness of these bodies to apply with vigour the compulsory powers of the Small Holdings Act for the acquisition of land. The present County Councillors are, in the main, able men of the highest character, and many of them are most industrious and painstaking in the routine work of dealing with evils produced by bad social conditions, but they are reluctant to move any faster than the times will push them in the direction of such great social reforms as will prevent or lessen the evil conditions responsible for so much of the mental and physical disease, poverty, and crime which have to be dealt with by county institutions.

The method of working through committees is, of course, essential for the practical needs of bodies governing such a large area and dealing with so much detail work, but it is not unreasonable to urge that this system has been greatly abused in County Council work, and that in many cases the appointments of chairmen and the working of committees is settled by a county caucus, which, although not always political in character, tends to establish and perpetuate in all positions of real influence those who will attune their policy and activities according to the views of what are called the governing classes. Many important matters are dealt with in private by these committees, which ought to be settled first in open Council.

Most County Councils meet only four or five times a year, so it is small wonder that there is less healthy public knowledge of and interest in their work than there ought to be. One of the most urgent reforms for every County Council is the holding of a meeting in public at least once a month, to enable the ratepayers as well as all the members of the Council to review and more effectively control the finances and other important details of administration at reasonable intervals.

The pages which follow have been written at the the request of the Committee of the Rural Development Society, in the belief that it is desirable to place a few elementary facts about County Councils and their work before the public, so that those who intend to take an interest in these bodies in the near future may have in a simple and convenient form a general outline of their powers, duties, constitution, and activities. Every care has been taken to make the notes accurate and reliable, but the pamphlet is the first of its kind in this form, and the writer will be only too grateful for friendly corrections.

Richmond, April, 1910. W. THOMPSON.

WHAT COUNTY COUNCILS —— CAN DO —— FOR THE PEOPLE.

County Councils were established by the Local Government Act in 1888 in all the 52 counties of England and Wales and in certain large boroughs called County Boroughs. London was made a county in itself by taking certain parts of the county of Middlesex, Kent, and Surrey. The remaining portions of those counties are called Administrative Counties, and each have a County Council, as also do the three parts of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire and the two parts of Suffolk and Sussex, which are made Administrative Counties and given a County Council.

Each County Council consists of a chairman, aldermen, and councillors, the number of the latter being fixed by the Local Government Board.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNTY COUNCILS.

When they were first established, the County Councils took over the administrative business of the justices in Quarter Sessions, with other powers and duties, including the duties of the highway authorities as to main roads, involving altogether some 350 Acts of Parliament to a greater or less degree.

Since then Parliament has placed additional important duties upon County Councils by 213 new Acts, the chief of which are the Local Government Act, 1894 ; the Education Act, 1892 ; the Small Holdings Act, 1908, and more recently the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and the England Development Act, 1909.

The most important work from the point of view of expenditure up to now is that of Education, but the new work in connection with Housing, Small Holdings, and the Development Acts, added to the extra use that is likely to be made of the powers in many of the other 500 Acts through the effective working of these measures, will open out a field of the greatest importance to all who are interested in the work of social reform and the development of England.

All County Councils should be urged to use these powers (many of which are optional) to the fullest possible extent.

Compulsory Land Purchase.—In particular they should use their statutory powers to compel big landlords to sell land at a more reasonable price, or let it at a more reasonable rent when wanted either for public purposes or for allotments, small holdings, and cottages, so as to avoid the practice of offering applicants costly or unsuitable land simply because it can be got easily by agreement. (Section 39, Small Holdings Act, 1908; Section 2, Housing Act, 1909; and Section 65, Local Government Act, 1888.)

Fair Assessments.—Wherever possible the reassessment of any land should be secured, which is put at a low figure on the rate books of the various parishes, but for which a high price is asked when it is required by the ratepayers, or needed by private enterprise for building or cultivation. (County Rate Act, 1852.)

Small Holdings and Co-operation.—County Councils should themselves actively promote and initiate schemes and experiments for the more extensive provision of small holdings and allotments, especially by means of co-operative societies and credit banks organised and assisted by the County Councils. (Small Holdings Act, 1908, Sections 4 (3), 7, 9, 24, 49, and 52.)

Money for Deserving Labourers.—County Councils should apply to the Government for grants or advances to start Land Banks or credit societies, which will lend money at a low rate of interest for enabling poor but trustworthy men of good character to properly stock and work small holdings and allotments. (Section 1, England Development Act, 1909, and Section 49, Small Holdings Act, 1908.)

Marketing and Travelling Facilities.—County Councils should promote practical schemes for securing better methods and better opportunities of marketing agricultural produce, and for setting up better and cheaper means of carrying goods and passengers in country districts where the present rates and charges are much too high. (Section 1 (1) (d) England Development Act; Tramways Act, 1870; and Light Railways Act, 1896.)

Cottages and Gardens.—They should buy land where there is a scarcity of good cottages for working men, and either themselves build cottages with good large gardens, or let the land to builders and others who will put up good and cheap cottages, provided a scheme is put forward which will not inflict any burden on the ratepayers. (Sections 12, 13, and 72, Housing Act, 1909.) County Councils should make District Councils look after poor people's

houses, and see that they are kept in good repair, properly supplied with water and thoroughly healthy. (Sections 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15, Housing Act, 1909.)

They should also urge the Government to help the English labourers in the poorer villages as the Irish labourers are helped by giving local authorities cheap money and Government grants. In Ireland, by the help of a Government subsidy, over 40,000 cottages have been provided at low rents by rural district councils, as against 40 in England at much higher rents. (Labourers Acts, 1883 to 1906.)

The late Mr. Wilson Fox, in his evidence before the Select Committee on Rural Housing (1906) estimated that to provide 10,000 cottages costing £200, and let at a rent of 2s. per week, allowing £2 5s. per annum for expenses, with money at 3½ per cent. for 60 years, would cost the State annually only £40,000, and at the expiration of the term the cottages would be the property of the county. It might be possible to get such a grant under Section 1 of the England Development Act, 1909, as part of a general county scheme, " calculated to develop agriculture and rural industries or to promote the economic development of the United Kingdom."

Work and Fair Wages.—All County Council contracts should contain a clause binding the contractor to observe the conditions and to pay the rate of wages generally accepted as fair in his trade. Special committees should be appointed to deal with unemployment. (Unemployed Workmen's Act, 1905.) Grants should be obtained from Government for roadmaking and national afforestation schemes in the county, and this work, as well as building and other contract work, should be done, as far as possible, in slack times, so as to provide such extra employment for suitable labourers when most needed. (Sections 1 and 18, England Development Act, 1909.)

Polling Places should be more freely provided, so as to lessen the inconveniently long distances electors have to travel in many districts. (Polling Districts Act, 1908, and Local Government Acts, 1888 and 1894.)

Schoolrooms supported by public money should be made more available for giving opportunities for healthy recreation and for public meetings of the inhabitants, irrespective of creed, class, or politics. (Education Act, 1902.)

Public Rights in footpaths, rights of way, roadside wastes and commons should be strongly protected wherever they are threatened by landowners. (Section 26, Local Government Act, 1894.)

The general work of County Councils includes :—

Administration of main roads and bridges, music and dancing licenses, pauper lunatic asylums, control of the police, licenses for theatres and racecourses, supervision of sanitary inspection and other health matters, reformatories and industrial schools, preventing the pollution of rivers, regulation of locomotives on highways and executing the laws relating to contagious diseases of animals, conservation of fish, protection of wild birds, regulation and supervision of gas meters, weights and measures, and the hours of labour in shops, together with the making of the county rate (including the police rate), and the preparation of the basis for the county rate and the appointment and remuneration of all officials paid out of the county rate, including the surveyor, medical officer of health, inspectors of food and drugs, inspectors of licenses under the Finance Act, 1908, county treasurer, clerks (except justices' clerks and clerk of the peace), and coroners.

The County Council directs the registration of voters, fixes polling districts for Parliamentary elections, regulates to a great extent Local Government elections, and controls very largely the work and particularly the expenditure of parish councils. It can form a Parish Council in parishes with a population of less than 300 and group separate parishes together.

Alterations of boundaries and areas of county districts, as well as the constitution of new urban districts may be made by order of the County Council following on a local enquiry, but such orders generally require confirmation with or without modification by the Local Government Board.

In addition to the above matters, the administration of the Acts relating to Old Age Pensions in county districts, Midwives, Establishment Licenses, the promotion and opposition of Bills in Parliament, provision of isolation hospitals, the making of bye-laws for the good government of the county, and the exercise of default powers over sewerage and water supply and housing in any rural district have been included in the work of County Councils.

County Councils have the usual powers of local authorities for purchasing land and for making bye-laws in connection with matters connected with their powers and duties.

There have been from the beginning widely varying standards as regards the degree and quality of the administration of these powers, and it is important that information should be systematically collected as to the best examples and methods of administration of the various Acts in each county, so as to raise the standard elsewhere to this level.

In the following pages some facts and figures will be found indicating the nature and extent of work which may be done and is being done with regard to these matters.

COUNTY COUNCIL FINANCE.

County expenditure is met partly from Government Grants or contributions allocated from the Imperial taxes, and partly from county rates. The Imperial contribution consists of the sums passing through the Exchequer Contribution Account and the Education Grants.

During the financial year 1907-8 the amounts paid into the local taxation account were :—

	£
Local taxation, license duties, etc.	3,769,104
Estate Duty grant	2,263,177
Local taxation (Customs and Excise duties)	1,133,372
	£7,165,653

The first two of these items constitute the "Exchequer Contribution," assigned by Parliament to County Councils to enable them to make grants in aid of services of a national character, formerly made direct out of the Imperial Exchequer.

The local taxation license duties include :—

(1) The Excise licenses granted to persons for liberty to kill game or to use or keep armorial bearings, carriages or male servants, dogs, or guns, including also hackney carriages and light locomotives. By Section 6 of the Finance Act, 1908, and an Order in Council, October, 1908, the levying of these duties was transferred to the County Councils direct, but they are only payable at money order offices.

The method adopted for collecting these licenses is not uniform. In 21 counties a separate staff with chief officer and clerks, as a rule, has been appointed. In 13 cases work is done under the Finance Department with extra clerks. In 10 cases under the clerk of the Council. In 2 cases all is under the police. In nearly all cases arrangements have been made for co-operation with the police as to most of the outside work.

(2) The Excise licenses granted to appraisers, auctioneers, dealers by wholesale in beer, spirits, sweets, or wine, dealers in game, dealers in gold and silver plate, dealers in tobacco, hawkers, house agents, keepers of refreshment houses, and pawnbrokers.

(3) The licenses granted by the justices under the Licensing Acts, 1828-1904, for the sale of beer, wine, spirits, and sweets.

The proceeds of all the local taxation licenses are credited to the Council of the area in which they are collected.

The Estate Duty Grant is derived from one-and-a-half per cent. on the net value of property which would have been liable to the probate duty. (Finance Act, 1894.)

The local taxation (Customs and Excise Duties) comprises certain additional duties on spirits and part of the duty on beer, and, after paying £300,000 for police superannuation, is applicable for technical education. (Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1890, and Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890.)

All these sums have to be applied towards making payments for Teachers in Poor Law schools, Public Vaccinators, Poor Law Medical Officers, Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances, Registrars of Births and Deaths, pauper lunatics, criminal prosecutions and police. There are also statutory payments to be made for the Metropolitan police, revising barristers, and expenses under the County Electors Act, and in repaying to the General County Account the costs on accounts of general county purposes for which the whole of the area of the county is liable to be assessed to county contributions. (Secs. 23 and 24, Local Government Act, 1888.)

An estimate of receipts and expenditure for the ensuing year must be submitted to the County Council at the beginning of each financial year. General expenses of the County Council are those chargeable on the whole area of the county. Special expenses are those which are by law restricted to a hundred, division, or other limited part of a county, and the county accounts have to be so kept as to prevent such expenditure being charged on the whole administrative county. (Sec. 68 Act of 1888.) The money raised for "General County Purposes" must be carried to the "General County Account," and that affecting only part of the county must be carried to the "Special County Account."

When County Councils were established it was estimated that they would be supplied with an income of about £5,600,000, against which there would be outgoings estimated at about £4,600,000.

It was contemplated that after paying for the special purposes mentioned, a surplus would be available for distribution among local authorities, and in 1890 it was provided that the residue of the sums received out of the local taxation customs and excise duties, should be applied in aiding the supply of higher and technical education, but nearly everywhere the increase in cost of the various services for which the grants are applicable has reduced the available surplus in addition to which the cost of maintaining the main roads, owing to new forms of traffic, has gone up, so that in many counties there has been a deficiency which has to be met out of the rates.

The Board of Education Grants have been increased somewhat since 1903, but not, as a rule, to the same extent as the necessary

expenditure arising out of new duties and work imposed, either by the State or in response to local demands.

The expenditure of County Councils in England and Wales for the year 1905-6 was £21,063,376, while the receipts were £22,336,088. The rates were responsible for £10,747,667 of the receipts, or 48 per cent. of the total. Government subsidies were £9,197,266, or 41¼ per cent. of the total, while miscellaneous receipts amounted to £2,391,162, or 10¾ per cent. of the total.

The borrowing powers of the County Council (which may be carried out by the issue of stock) are exercised under sanction of the Local Government Board. The statutory securities for repayment are the county fund and the county rate, and the net debt (except for special purposes, such as education, small holdings, and advances to parish councils) is limited to one-tenth of the rateable value of the county. Any loans beyond this amount can only be authorised by a provisional order of the Local Government Board, confirmed by Parliament. The maximum period for repayment is thirty years, except in cases where Parliament has specially granted a longer period, which is the case under the Small Holdings and Housing Acts. (Sections 69 and 70, Act of 1888.)

For purposes other than education County Councils have borrowed up to March, 1909, £11,606,963. Under the Education Acts they have borrowed £964,496 for higher education, and £4,467,195 for elementary education.

County Stock has been issued under regulations for the County Councils of Devon, Dorset, Glamorgan, Hertford, Middlesex, Somerset, Southampton, Stafford, Surrey and West Sussex.

Every County Council must have a Finance Committee.

County Council accounts must be audited by a Local Government Board district auditor for the financial year ending 31st March, and must be in the form prescribed by the Board

In 1908 the district auditors reported 174 disallowances and surcharges made at the audits of the County Council accounts. Of the appeals made to Local Government Board against these disallowances and surcharges, 33 were confirmed and remitted, 5 were reversed, and 8 modified, 2 being otherwise dealt with.

Expenses have been incurred by local authorities which have required special application for sanction under the Local Authorities Expenses Act, 1887, after the money had been spent. In 415 cases sanction was given and in 28 cases refused to county councils.

COUNTY

Return shewing County Rates, Assessable Values, and Loan Debts for

This Return was drawn up for the County Accountants' Society by the

COUNTY.	Year ended 31st March, 1909. RATES IN THE £. General County Purposes.	Police.	Higher Education.	Elementary Education.	Other Purposes.	Total of all Rates.	Amounts raised under Sec. 18 (1) a, c, and d, of the Ed. Act, 1902 Higher Education.	Elementary Education.	ASSESSABLE VALUES. General County Purposes.	Police[1]
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Bedfordshire	9½	3	1½	9	2½	2 1½	..	4,010	930,170	538,540
Berks	4	..	¾	10½	*l*5	1 8	1,120	2,760	1,220,758	..
Bucks	6	*d*2½	¾	10½	..	1 7¾	67	7,236	1,100,816	*d*1,032,968
Cambridgeshire ...	1⅞	2	⅜	5⅝	2⅛	1 0	..	1,107	687,708	412,784
Cardiganshire ...	8	..	2½	9	..	1 7¼	148	2,702	231,888	..
Carmarthenshire ...	7	*l*2	½	8½	*p*½	1 6½	..	6,350	600,540	557,262
Carnarvonshire ...	7¼	*f*	2	11	..	1 8¼	..	4,977	642,135	642,135
Cheshire	5	*2½	2	9	3/16–5	1 8†	..	5,065	3,503,991	3,050,487
Cornwall	6	*a*3½	1	9½	..	1 8	1,762	9,155	1,129,939	*a*1,033,111
Cumberland	3	3	1	8	½	1 3½	..	5,474	1,573,117	1,358,823
Derbyshire	6	*d*2½	1½	7	..	1 5	391	19,244	2,503,265	2,305,406
Devon	2⅛	2¾	¼	7¼	2	1 3	65	10,274	2,402,828	2,019,884
Dorset	4¼	3	..	8¼	1	1 4¼	..	1,183	1,024,408	911,992
Durham	2¼	2¾	1½	1/-	..	1 7	..	26,970	3,884,364	3,730,095
Essex	9	4	1	9	*b*1¼	2 0¼	5,350	19,945	4,698,012	2,166,448
Glamorgan	3½	3	2½	1/3	*p*½	2 0½	3,650	29,981	3,188,790	3,134,296
Gloucestershire ...	*c*3¼	1¾	..	9½	..	1 8½	2,311	8,883	1,627,412	1,327,696
Hants	4½	3½	½	7½	1	1 5	35	7,727	2,059,952	1,927,072
Herefordshire ...	3½	1½	..	4½	3	1 0½	..	997	675,156	569,875
Herts	1/3	3½	1¾	10½	..	2 6¼	1,119	9,871	1,757,912	1,302,172
Hunts	1/6	*f*	..	7	..	2 1	..	1,577	324,919	324,919
Isle of Ely	11	..	..	5	..	1 4	..	..	328,979	328,979
Isle of Wight	6½	2½	1	6	..	1 4	26	2,220	489,651	415,286
Kent	5¼	2½	1½	9	¾	1 7	120	17,374	5,986,265	3,121,314
Lancashire	3 9/16	×	2	10	×	×	..	16,213	8,494,586	6,274,094
Leicestershire ...	4¾	*1½	1¼	7	..	1 2½	..	6,809	1,251,497	1,251,497
Lincoln (Holland) ...	5¼	1¼	..	6¼	..	1 1¼	..	1,914	499,680	439,979
„ (Kesteven) ...	4½	1½	..	6½	3½	1 4	..	2,699	630,512	550,345
„ (Lindsey) ...	*c*9¼	*d*2½	..	..	..	11¾	74	6,368	*ce*1,181,557	*de*1,141,125
Merioneth	1/0½	..	2	1/0½	*p*½	2 3½	..	1,735	223,644	for all purposes
Middlesex	11	..	1	8	..	1 8	663	18,418	6,420,213	..
Monmouthshire ...	1/-	*f*	2	1/2	*p*½	2 4½	..	11,073	1,150,393	1,150,393
Montgomery	1/-	..	¼	8	..	1 8½	..	967	274,620	274,620
Norfolk	5¼	..	1½	9½	*l*4½	1 8¼	..	6,495	1,471,308	1,388,544
Northamptonshire ...	5	*f*	1	7	..	1 1	..	6,404	1,173,662	1,173,662
Northumberland ...	5½	..	1	8	*l*3½	1 5½	..	14,973	1,900,862	..
Notts	3¾	..	¼	7¾	*l*2¾	1 2½	..	13,661	*e*1,465,215	..
Oxfordshire	7¼	..	½	8½	*l*3¼	1 8	..	2,289	698,967	*l* 636,821
Pembrokeshire ...	9	*f*	2	10	..	1 9	..	1,100	337,607	..
Radnorshire	6	..	1	4	..	11	..	317	203,580	..
Rutland	*c*11	1	..	..	..	1 0	..	71	144,241	..
Salop	4½	1½	1	5½	..	1 0½	..	2,246	1,389,023	1,239,138
Soke of Peterboro' ...	1	2½	¾	7	..	11½	..	109	229,250	77,629
Somerset	6½	2¼	½	6¾	..	1 4	391	8,950	*e*2,132,847	*e*1,427,566
Staffordshire... ...	4 13/16	2 11/16	1 3/16	10⅝	13/16	1 8⅛	2,217	16,151	3,772,946	3,612,958
Suffolk (East) ...	5⅛	3½	..	9½	..	1 6½	15	3,268	857,962	857,962
„ (West) ...	..	..	¼	1/-	*l*2½	1 2¼	..	2,431	492,912	423,303
Surrey	5½	2	1½	8	..	1 5	437	22,916	5,065,368	1,909,964
Sussex (East)	7	3	½	8¾	..	1 7½	..	5,720	2,097,152	1,068,955
„ (West) ...	4	2¾	½	10½	..	1 5¾	..	4,405	988,645	803,671
Warwickshire ...	6	*2.86	1½	8	..	1 6.36	..	8,106	2,083,336	1,832,298
Westmorland ...	3	2	2	7	..	1 2	360	..	452,588	388,086
Wilts	9	2¼	1	10	1¼	2 0	1,730	1,632	1,408,628	1,060,559
Worcestershire ...	8¾	*3½	1	8	..	1 9¼	1,203	7,778	1,917,546	1,812,118
York (East Riding) ...	1⅝	2¼	1¼	6¾	7/16	1 0 7/16	..	3,265	1,022,817	968,155
„ (North „) ...	1.87	2.92	.37	6.75	1.25	1 1.18	707	8,615	1,898,791	1,652,221
„ (West „) ...	6	*2.9	2.6	9.8	.6	1 9.9	7,280	42,410	*e*7,599,761	6,466,377

* Average of Local Police Rate.
† The Rates for other purposes vary ; total Rates for all purposes about 1/8 for year 1909, and 1/9 for year 1910.
a Includes Weights and Measures, Justices' Clerks, Coroners', Food and Drugs Expenses.
b For Asylum.
c Includes Elementary Education.
d Includes Weights and Measures, Diseases of Animals, and Food and Drugs.
e Rates levied on these values for part of year only.
f Included in General County Purposes.
g For Secondary Schools in Boroughs.
h Includes Loans not chargeable on the whole administrative area.
k Loans for Small Holdings.

RATES.

the undermentioned Counties for the Year ended 31st March, 1909.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. W. Fox, and is published with his kind permission.

COUNTY.	ASSESSABLE VALUES.		LOAN DEBTS.					
	Elementary Education.	Other Purposes.	General County Purposes.	Police	Higher Education.	Elementary Education.	Other Purposes.	Total County Debt.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bedfordshire	538,540	723,400	2,650	..	9,332	50,541	*b* 47,671	110,194
Berks	990,038	*l*1,090,591	3,096	..	11,294	56,311	*l*42,077	112,778
Bucks	1,032,968	1,032,968	63,806	3,316	10,610	120,655	..	198,387
Cambridgeshire ...	412,784	412,784	2,889	..	28,802	37,448	*l*6,927	76,066
Cardiganshire ...	231,888	..	8,998	..	..	43,551	..	52,549
Carmarthenshire ...	452,438	..	23,664	*f*	7,009	110,091	..	140,764
Carnarvonshire ...	642,135	642,135	56,611	*f*	..	129,218	..	185,829
Cheshire	2,508,330	..	224,049	27,799	40,797	182,064	..	474,709
Cornwall	1,032,098	..	113,622	13,850	28,073	157,421	..	312,966
Cumberland	1,179,452	1,377,783	42,792	27,326	43,146	76,623	..	189,887
Derbyshire	2,216,837	..	134,700	..	31,753	368,117	..	534,570
Devon	2,083,060	..	3,133	*l*192,406	5,672	168,706	*k*8,836	378,753
Dorset	760,692	873,108	103,997	24,579	..	13,168	..	141,744
Durham	2,947,367	3,884,364	9,759	5,667	17,149	443,966	..	476,541
Essex	2,089,128	*b*4,526,456	135,773	27,455	50,514	348,083	..	561,825
Glamorgan	1,728,721	3,188,790	308,720	3,900	8,777	561,839	..	885,236
Gloucestershire ...	1,327,696	..	68,210	..	1,186	154,151	..	223,547
Hants	1,655,404	1,927,072	73,897	34,840	3,340	123,912	..	235,989
Herefordshire ...	569,875	569,875	36,505	..	..	21,739	..	58,244
Herts	1,699,975	..	208,901	18,785	52,893	188,103	..	468,682
Hunts	324,919	324,919	4,364	925	1,500	29,515	*k* 17,823	54,127
Isle of Ely	328,979	328,979	13,046	..	7,815	27,273	*k*12,100	60,234
Isle of Wight... ...	369,310	..	35,693	3,789	10,183	37,534	..	87,199
Kent	3,046,954	4,844,340	165,437	..	18,776	258,433	..	442,646
Lancashire	5,119,348	..	91,219	114,987	7,957	314,058	67,615	595,836
Leicestershire ...	1,149,628	1,251,497	203,593	..	13,095	113,475	..	330,163
Lincoln (Holland) ...	439,979	..	20,629	..	..	31,542	*k*26,027	78,198
" (Kesteven)...	550,345	550,345	..	..	..	32,298	107,170	139,468
" (Lindsey) ...	..	..	63,067	*f*	3,129	113,089	..	179,285
Merioneth			*b*17,282	3,057	9,064	41,902	..	71,305
Middlesex	1,756,180	..	2,760,569	..	116,167	336,719	..	3,213,455
Monmouthshire ...	945,009	..	118,881	*f*	..	318,576	..	437,457
Montgomery	274,620	274,620	23,743	..	4,447	26,240	..	54,430
Norfolk	1,388,544	..	45,425	76,400	..	145,094	..	266,919
Northamptonshire ...	1,043,108	..	29,066	..	..	117,792	*k*185	147,043
Northumberland ...	1,625,102	*l*1,840,532	*r*86,346	..	1,843	168,244	*l*53,284	*q* 309,717
Notts	1,236,331	*d*1390,327	124,262	8,974	..	248,557	..	381,793
Oxfordshire	636,821	698,967	69,003	..	..	34,501	*k*6,700	110,204
Pembrokeshire ...	294,053	..	4,182	..	11,063	33,367	..	48,612
Radnorshire	203,580	203,580	36,894	..	..	7,485	..	44,379
Rutland	..	..	25,600	..	..	58	..	25,658
Salop	1,180,489	..	*h*18,000	..	13,545	37,344	..	68,889
Soke of Peterboro'...	77,629	229,250	3,050	..	6,318	1,435	..	10,803
Somerset	*e*1,913,367	..	168,451	5,756	9,590	156,520	..	340,317
Staffordshire... ...	2,117,804	3,705,963	305,712	56,990	7,988	314,480	..	685,170
Suffolk (East) ...	707,686	857,962	*b*61,285	..	8,373	72,414	..	142,072
" (West) ...	423,303	492,912	12,318	11,257	3,080	39,231	*b*34,473	100,671
Surrey	1,180,489	..	624,379	20,670	53,564	406,498	..	1,105,111
Sussex (East)... ...	1,068,955	..	279,480	19,051	16,780	72,277	..	387,588
" (West) ...	743,451	..	180,737	18,244	13,414	65,145	..	277,540
Warwickshire ...	1,373,152	1,810,704	81,488	21,667	..	111,248	..	214,403
Westmorland ...	388,086	..	11,900	2,025	485	9,116	..	23,526
Wilts	1,060,559	1,296,380	76,040	2,400	8,826	36,197	12,295	135,758
Worcestershire ...	1,324,482	..	233,943	32,459	7,573	142,114	..	416,089
York (East Riding) ...	874,372	..	37,174	..	19,638	47,711	..	104,523
" (North ") ...	1,652,221	1,596,996	59,801	34,402	6,027	129,926	3,620	233,776
" (West ") ...	5,708,022	Various	927,259	30,545	129,026	1,040,450	..	2,127,280

l Special County Purposes, which includes Police.
o Includes Higher Education.
p Rate for Welsh Intermediate Education.
q £394 Sinking Fund.
× County divided into 19 Police Districts. Rates vary from $2\frac{3}{8}$d. to $4\frac{5}{8}$d., and is also divided into 6 Hundreds for Main Roads and Bridges. Rates vary from $1\frac{5}{8}$d. to 4d. for Roads, and *nil* to $\frac{3}{8}$d. for Bridges. Special Rates for Assize Courts, etc., vary from $\frac{1}{30}$ to $\frac{13}{30}$d., with average total for all purposes of about 1s.10d. for 1909, with estimated Rates for year 1910 at $3\frac{5}{16}$d. to $4\frac{11}{16}$d., $1\frac{7}{16}$d. to $4\frac{3}{8}$d. and $1\frac{1}{24}$d. to $\frac{15}{24}$d. and $1\frac{1}{30}$d. to $\frac{5}{16}$d. respectively.
n In addition to this Rate, there are Rates of $\frac{3}{8}$d., $\frac{1}{4}$d. and $\frac{1}{8}$d. in the £ producing £1,425 raised on certain areas for maintenance of Secondary Schools.

EDUCATION (Education Act, 1902).

1. **Primary Education** (children not more than 16 years of age). The County Council is the local authority for this purpose in rural districts, in urban districts with less than 20,000 inhabitants, and in non-county boroughs with less than 10,000 inhabitants. It may and often does delegate its powers to district or parish councils for certain areas.

2. **Higher Education.** The County Council is the local authority for higher education everywhere within its administrative area, but with power to transfer its powers to district committees and councils, some of which have concurrent powers for higher education. County Councils may levy a higher education rate of 2d. in the £, or such higher amount as the Local Government Board authorise, and non-county boroughs or large urban districts may supplement this with a rate of 1d. in the £. This branch of the work includes :—

(a) Evening Schools.
(b) Payment of teachers' or children's travelling expenses attending School or College.
(c) Assisting educational institutions within or outside their area, including payments for fees and scholarship.
(d) Co-opting experts of either sex on the various Committees.
(e) Giving any education except that given in a public elementary school.
(f) **Technical education** in any subjects. Note there is a special form of assistance given to subjects connected with horticulture. (Sec. 2 (2) Board of Agriculture Act, 1889.)

All Educational duties except the power of raising a rate or borrowing money stand referred to the Education Committee.

3. **Industrial Schools.** Power to establish and maintain, manage or contribute towards industrial schools. (Sec. 3 (vii.) Act of 1888.)

The burden of education is very largely affected in particular districts by (1) the produce of the penny rate per child, which varies from 1s. 11d. in Cornwall to 4s. 4d. in Westmoreland, with an average approximating to 3s. 3d.; (2) the cost per child to the rates, which varies from 11s. 2d. in the Lindsey division of Lincolnshire to £1 16s. 1d. in Berkshire, with an average approximating to 25s.; (3) the average size of the schools, varying from 77 in Herefordshire to 290 in Middlesex, and approximating to an average of 140.

The rate varies from 3½d. in the Lindsey division of Lincolnshire to 10¾d. in Staffordshire, and approximates to an average of 9d. in the £.

The amount of 2d. in the £ limited for higher education has been exceeded in the case of Glamorgan, 2½d.; Lancashire, 2¾d. The best county councils are endeavouring—

(a) To encourage the more general establishment of evening schools and their utilisation in such a way as to add to the opportunities of technical education and healthy recreation.

(b) To encourage the co-option of women on educational bodies and committees.

(c) To give special facilities for the instruction of small holders in the principles and methods of intensive cultivation which have been so successful in France and Belgium, and of dairy work as carried out in Denmark.

(d) To promote lectures and classes for instruction in the principles and methods of agricultural co-operation.

Rural Education.

In elementary schools, school gardens and equipment for manual instruction should be provided; in continuation and secondary schools scholarship should be tenable for boys who have shewn aptitude for agricultural pursuits; nature study and elementary science teaching of a practical character should be given in close connection with practical work. Other scholarships should provide for continuing the education of young men from the secondary or continuation schools to agricultural colleges or institutes, giving the higher form of agricultural instruction both practical and scientific. These higher institutions should be connected with, and supported by, a group of counties and should maintain experimental farms and stations with the help of the central department.

In Wiltshire, the agricultural education committee have offered to provide and supervise practical instruction in dairying and other suitable rural occupations, for pupils attending day schools, on condition that the cost of instruction is charged to the general education account, and arrangements have been agreed to as to the butter making, cheese making, day school gardens, poultry keeping and bee-keeping.

Continuation Schools.

The foundations of a successful system of continuation schools must be made in the day school by improving education there, introducing more manual work, and granting, in special cases, exemption from day school attendance for children suitably employed during part of the time, provided really valuable education is being obtained in some practical manner.

The percentage of evening scholars to day scholars is remarkably small. In 23 counties it lies between 0 and 5 per cent. In only 12 counties does the percentage lie above 10; the average percentage for the whole of the administrative counties is 8.5.

The following tables give useful facts and figures as to County Council work and expenditure on Elementary and Higher Education.

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.

The following figures are extracted, by the kind permission of Mr. A. W. Fox,

Statement showing the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for the under-

COUNTY.	Elementary Education, excluding Expenditure charged on Special Areas under Sec. 18 (1), (c) and (d), and Loan for Working Balance.						
	No. of Schools, 31st Mar., 1903.	Average Number of Scholars.	Administration Expenses.	Salaries of Teachers.	Expenses of Maintenance of Schools.	Repayment of Loans and other Expenses,	Total Expenditure.
			£	£	£	£	£
Bedfordshire	137	17,202	3,001	42,747	10,641	2,851	59,240
Berks	210	22,860	4,193	65,914	14,392	4,751	89,250
Breconshire	83	8,899	2,400	22,199	6,125	1,572	32,296
Bucks	247	31,499	6,319	81,236	16,519	3,830	107,904
Cambridgeshire ..	135	13,624	2,578	31,065	6,761	1,626	42,030
Carnarvonshire ..	149	19,903	4,218	52,401	10,333	4,773	71,725
Cheshire	349	58,183	8,552	157,446	34,786	12,537	213,321
Cornwall	323	44,612	7,544	99,109	17,112	5,837	129,602
Cumberland	254	29,684	6,432	75,679	16,929	3,028	102,068
Denbighshire	133	19,929	4,036	48,399	9,891	5,694	68,020
Derbyshire	387	79,393	12,933	173,827	41,061	11,226	239,047
Devon	544	57,383	11,419	134,607	30,168	8,531	184,725
Dorset	268	23,389	2,628	55,818	12,556	2,163	73,165
Durham	384	115,401	22,784	274,101	64,294	21,133	382,312
Essex	440	62,037	11,322	139,957	43,674	19,760	214,713
Glamorgan	230	59,469	13,128	153,418	41,193	12,900	220,639
Gloucestershire ..	391	44,922	10,401	110,573	22,418	5,214	148,606
Hants	352	46,088	9,840	108,294	26,470	4,684	149,288
Herefordshire	179	13,680	2,673	32,697	6,300	894	42,564
Herts	247	42,517	10,130	114,857	30,649	4,011	159,647
Hunts	89	8,997	1,834	20,373	6,894	599	29,700
Isle of Ely	72	10,486	1,939	22,992	5,247	1,677	31,855
Kent	440	76,585	20,274	205,745	46,782	7,849	280,650
Lancashire	711	139,008	25,590	373,541	70,337	11,392	480,860
Leicestershire ..	264	35,777	4,484	82,643	15,542	3,118	105,787
Lincoln (Holland) ..	84	9,795	2,181	25,535	5,551	1,087	34,354
„ (Kesteven) ..	171	13,967	2,307	32,747	8,186	1,859	45,099
„ (Lindsey) ..	325	31,799	5,277	71,811	15,222	3,180	95,490
Middlesex	110	33,605	5,598	92,922	27,692	6,735	132,947
Monmouthshire ..	180	38,638	9,001	89,636	23,164	16,098	137,899
Montgomery	100	7,813	2,014	19,364	4,504	655	26,537
Norfolk	492	48,882	7,413	121,567	24,506	8,365	161,851
Northamptonshire ..	264	31,565	6,157	77,870	12,863	3,075	99,965
Northumberland ..	280	42,789	10,602	104,340	24,170	4,161	143,273
Notts	241	43,399	8,232	96,141	23,506	5,558	133,437
Oxfordshire	232	21,333	3,395	51,973	11,695	1,960	69,023
Rutland	38	2,978	501	7,036	1,294	239	9,070
Salop	279	30,778	3,738	76,175	11,703	4,091	95,707
Somerset	496	51,731	8,588	127,205	26,860	6,946	169,599
Staffordshire	378	76,644	11,586	186,775	38,284	14,562	251,207
Suffolk (East) ..	243	26,981	4,809	63,384	11,898	2,317	82,408
„ (West) ..	170	17,189	3,307	43,961	8,812	1,668	57,748
Sussex (East) ..	176	24,415	6,097	66,222	13,851	2,317	88,487
„ (West) ..	161	18,718	3,285	49,980	12,170	7,556	72,991
Warwickshire	255	37,346	5,402	93,039	21,556	5,645	125,642
Westmoreland ..	107	7,133	984	21,111	5,428	373	27,896
Wilts	335	33,404	5,001	89,057	17,699	3,222	114,979
Worcestershire ..	254	42,476	8,334	100,568	23,389	7,608	139,899
York (East Riding) ..	210	18,781	5,548	46,620	10,859	1,591	64,618
„ (North „) ..	399	41,879	7,488	106,028	19,039	4,695	137,250
„ (West „) ..	914	178,547	36,545	430,537	97,530	46,547	611,159

a Includes £5,000 borrowed during the year under the Education (Provision of Working Balances) Act, 1903.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

from a Return drawn up by him for the County Accountants Society.

mentioned Counties for the Year ended 31st March, 1909.

COUNTY.	Average Cost per Scholar.	Expenditure charged on Special Areas under Sec. 18 (1) (c) and (d).	Outstanding Loans 31st March, 1909.	Rates raised, excluding rates under Sec. 18 (1), (c) and (d). Amount in the £.	Produce of Rate.	Amount of Rate raised per Scholar.	Estimated Amount in the £, 1910.
	£ s. d.	£	£	d.	£	£ s. d.	s. d.
Bedfordshire	3 8 10	4,010	50,515	9	19,934	1 3 2	9
Berks	3 18 1	2,760	56,311	10½	43,707	1 18 2.8	10½
Breconshire	3 12 7	2,743	47,725	10	10,489	1 3 6	1 0
Bucks	3 8 6	7,807	120,655	10½	45,192	1 8 8¼	10
Cambridgeshire ..	3 1 8	1,740	37,448	5⅚	9,677	– 14 2	8
Carnarvonshire ..	3 12 1	4,978	127,218	11	29,040	1 9 2	1 0
Cheshire	3 13 3	3,586	182,064	9	94,061	1 12 4	—
Cornwall	2 18 1	9,180	157,421	9½	40,854	– 18 3½	9
Cumberland	3 8 9	5,825	76,623	8	39,315	1 6 6	9
Denbighshire	3 8 3	4,334	110,778	1/-	26,929	1 7 0	11
Derbyshire	3 0 2.6	19,920	368,118	7	64,659	– 16 3.4	7
Devon	3 4 4½	8,355	130,349	7½	65,095	1 2 8.4	7½
Dorset	3 2 6¾	1,183	13,154	8¼	26,149	1 2 4¼	8¾
Durham	3 6 3	28,105	443,966	1/-	147,344	1 5 6	1 1
Essex	3 9 2¾	22,333	348,865	9	78,342	1 5 3	9
Glamorgan	3 14 2½	36,383	561,838	1/3	108,044	1 16 4	1 2½
Gloucestershire ..	3 6 2	9,033	*a*150,542	9½	52,564	1 3 5	10
Hants	3 4 9¼	8,030	124,608	7½	51,731	1 2 5¼	7½
Herefordshire	3 2 3	1,127	21,739	4½	10,685	– 15 7	5½
Herts	3 15 1	12,410	190,577	10½	74,374	1 15 0	11
Hunts	3 6 0¼	1,577	29,515	7	9,432	1 0 11½	7
Isle of Ely	3 0 9	1,384	27,282	5	6,854	– 13 1	7
Kent	3 13 3	19,887	258,433	9	114,175	1 9 10	10
Lancashire	3 9 2	16,362	314,058	10	213,306	1 10 8	10
Leicestershire ..	2 19 1½	6,431	113,745	7	33,527	– 18 9	7
Lincoln (Holland) ..	3 10 1¾	1,915	31,542	6¾	12,374	1 5 3¼	6¾
„ (Kesteven) ..	3 4 7	3,157	37,265	6½	14,905	1 1 4	6½
„ (Lindsey) ..	3 0 0¾	6,328	116,218	4¾	23,726	– 14 11	5
Middlesex	3 19 1	16,498	336,719	8	58,539	1 14 10	9
Monmouthshire ..	3 11 4½	14,709	318,577	1/2	57,652	1 9 10	1 3½
Montgomery	3 7 11	2,829	26,233	8	9,154	1 3 5	8
Norfolk	3 6 2½	6,537	145,094	9¼	54,012	1 2 1	9¼
Northamptonshire ..	3 3 4	6,404	*b*122,029	7	30,424	– 19 3	8½
Northumberland ..	3 6 11.6	14,973	168,244	8	53,163	1 4 10.1	9
Notts	3 1 6	13,800	248,557	7¾	40,492	– 18 8	7¾
Oxfordshire	3 4 8½	2,199	34,501	8½	22,554	1 1 1½	9
Rutland	3 0 11	69	1,589	4⅖	2,680	– 17 11.9	5
Salop	3 2 2	2,363	37,344	5½	27,052	– 17 6	5½
Somerset	3 5 6½	9,114	156,521	6¾	55,065	1 1 3½	7½
Staffordshire	3 5 6	16,115	314,480	10⅝	90,327	1 3 7	11½
Suffolk (East) ..	3 1 1	4,119	72,415	9½	27,909	1 0 8¼	9
„ (West) ..	3 7 2¼	2,375	39,231	1/-	21,102	1 4 6	1 0
Sussex (East) ..	3 12 5	5,720	69,169	8¾	38,972	1 11 11	8⅞
„ (West) ..	3 17 11	4,406	54,224	10½	32,526	1 14 9	—
Warwickshire	3 7 3½	7,999	111,248	8	45,772	1 4 6¼	8¼
Westmoreland ..	3 18 2	396	9,115	7	11,305	1 11 8	7
Wilts	3 8 10	1,879	36,197	10	44,191	1 6 5	10
Worcestershire ..	3 5 10	9,319	142,114	8	44,150	1 0 9	10
York (East Riding) ..	3 8 10	2,932	47,711	6¾	24,560	1 6 2	6¾
„ (North „) ..	3 5 6½	9,314	129,926	6¾	46,440	1 2 2½	7½
„ (West „) ..	3 8 5.5	44,061	1,040,450	9.8	238,408	1 6 8.4	10

b Includes £4,571 Loan or Working Balance.

HIGHER

Statement shewing the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for the under-

COUNTY.	YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1909.				
	Rates Raised.		Expenditure.		
				Grants to Secondary Schools.	
	Amount in the £.	Produce of the Rate.	Administration.	Maintenance and Instruction.	Capital, Buildings, &c.
	d.	£	£	£	£
Bedfordshire	1½	5,813	691	7,756	—
Berks	⅛	2,543	1,033	8,380	*a*
Breconshire	1½	1,573	16	4,538	362
Bucks	¾	3,440	539	2,919	292
Cambridgeshire	⅝	1,075	789	5,590	1,347
Carnarvonshire	2	5,888	659	7,876	—
Cheshire	2	29,199	4,727	34,441	33,591
Cornwall	1	4,708	1,613	10,574	2,817
Cumberland	1	6,555	1,546	2,259	821
Denbighshire	1½	3,851	190	2,760	—
Derbyshire	1½	15,645	1,353	4,697	2,635
Devon	¼	2,502	600	2,286	880
Dorset	—	—	315	3,489	—
Durham	1½	24,276	2,717	26,685	773
Essex	1	19,575	5,018	40,109	22
Glamorgan	3	37,372	3,774	26,595	26,454
Gloucestershire	½	3,383	597	2,843	*a*
Hants	½	4,292	997	3,278	—
Herefordshire	—	—	241	289	4,230
Herts	1¾	12,818	2,382	3,138	649
Hunts	—	—	280	750	350
Isle of Ely	—	—	266	984	35
Kent	1½	37,415	8,820	31,589	*a*
Lancashire	2	70,788	5,006	10,081	—
Leicestershire	1¼	6,517	1,160	3,580	524
Lincoln (Holland)	—	—	75	1,232	—
„ (Kesteven)	—	—	249	1,858	—
„ (Lindsey)	—	—	334	780	—
Middlesex	1	26,751	4,350	19,438	4,743
Monmouthshire	2	10,066	2,041	—	—
Montgomery	½	572	115	3,040	—
Norfolk	1½	9,196	501	2,618	1,649
Northamptonshire	1	4,890	372	1,323	—
Northumberland	1	7,794	1,306	10,739	*a*
Notts	¼	1,576	1,120	717	500
Oxfordshire	½	1,456	390	1,124	1,500
Rutland	—	—	74	—	—
Salop	1	5,787	799	1,244	—
Somerset	½	4,531	1,226	3,900	1,504
Staffordshire	1 3/16	17,856	1,781	9,065	*a*
Suffolk (East)	—	—	705	271	—
„ (West)	¼	512	274	1,327	234
Sussex (East)	½	4,369	766	345	—
„ (West)	0½	2,060	226	950	*a*
Warwickshire	1½	11,316	700	3,942	3,139
Westmoreland	2	3,770	272	1,645	490
Wilts	1	5,870	1,145	3,541	115
Worcestershire	1	7,989	2,617	9,875	800
York (East Riding)	1¼	5,323	250	2,277	914
„ (North „)	⅜	2,966	600	4,361	1
„ (West „)	2.6	84,290	11,919	37,139	3,535

a Included in Maintenance and Instruction.

EDUCATION.

mentioned Counties for the Year ended 31st March, 1909.

COUNTY.	YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1909.				
	EXPENDITURE.			Expenditure charged on Special Areas under Sec. 18 (1), (a).	Outstanding Loans March 31st, 1909.
	Instruction and Training of all Teachers, including Pupil Teachers, Probationers, Supplementary, &c.	Other Technical and Secondary Education.	Total Expenditure		
	£	£	£	£	£
Bedfordshire	585	2,367	11,399	—	9,332
Berks	1,927	3,887	15,227	1,120	11,294
Breconshire	689	1,073	6,678	—	4,836
Bucks	698	7,782	12,230	67	10,610
Cambridgeshire	498	2,644	10,868	—	28,802
Carnarvonshire	1,148	1,691	11,374	—	—
Cheshire	6,507	36,620	115,886	—	40,796
Cornwall	*a*	9,178	24,182	1,576	28,072
Cumberland	3,057	6,665	14,348	—	43,147
Denbighshire	1,702	2,004	6,656	—	384
Derbyshire	7,648	14,775	31,108	—	31,753
Devon	2,373	11,076	17,215	65	—
Dorset	1,813	2,782	8,399	—	—
Durham	5,309	20,588	56,072	—	17,149
Essex	2,649	25,486	73,284	5,350	52,354
Glamorgan	5,142	37,434	99,399	7,663	8,777
Gloucestershire	712	16,185	20,337	2,321	2,625
Hants	3,036	10,001	17,312	—	3,340
Herefordshire	*b*8,620	2,816	16,196	—	—
Herts	3,354	11,842	21,365	1,983	55,733
Hunts	417	1,728	3,525	—	1,500
Isle of Ely	282	1,161	2,728	—	7,815
Kent	*a*	51,030	91,439	—	18,876
Lancashire	14,477	72,253	101,817	—	7,957
Leicestershire	3,147	7,286	15,697	—	16,095
Lincoln (Holland)	1,401	195	2,903	—	—
„ (Kesteven)	738	3,526	6,371	—	—
„ (Lindsey)	2,527	5,350	8,991	149	3,129
Middlesex	15,786	27,697	72,014	894	116,166
Monmouthshire	4,963	6,474	13,478	—	—
Montgomery	215	268	3,638	—	4,447
Norfolk	4,527	10,153	19,448	—	—
Northamptonshire	2,770	8,920	13,385	—	—
Northumberland	*a*	6,271	18,316	—	1,842
Notts	4,002	5,081	11,420	—	—
Oxfordshire	752	2,400	6,166	—	—
Rutland	14	769	857	—	—
Salop	1,219	11,977	15,239	179	13,545
Somerset	3,646	15,299	25,575	766	9,590
Staffordshire	5,630	31,708	48,184	1,858	7,988
Suffolk (East)	3,009	3,945	7,930	15	8,373
„ (West)	462	2,691	4,988	—	3,080
Sussex (East)	2,627	10,962	14,700	—	16,780
„ (West)	2,350	3,460	6,986	—	13,414
Warwickshire	6,973	10,594	25,348	—	—
Westmoreland	937	3,020	6,364	37	485
Wilts	2,902	12,804	20,507	1,804	8,826
Worcestershire	3,840	17,492	34,624	1,386	9,073
York (East Riding)	2,347	3,258	9,046	—	19,638
„ (North „)	1,714	2,350	9,026	707	6,027
„ (West „)	35,136	75,661	163,390	5,287	129,026

b Includes £3,750 Capital Expenditure on Training College.

In the absence of a compulsory system, which is absolutely necessary, much good can be done by visitation of parents and employers and by the distribution of circulars and holding of meetings to secure their co-operation in sending young persons to continuation classes which should be provided by the education authority for all who demand it up to the age of 17.

Technical education should be provided for young farmers and agricultural labourers of the age of 16 and upwards in winter courses or periodical classes at convenient centres in dairying, thatching, hedging, cider-making, fruit culture, poultry keeping, the nature of soils and manures, the characteristic and diseases of farm animals, insects and other pests, surveying and measuring. Local agricultural societies should co-operate in this work.

Agricultural Education.

Agricultural education in the agricultural counties is, with a few marked exceptions in the West of England, in a very unsatisfactory state, but it is curious to note that several of the industrial counties now possess organised systems of instruction in agriculture.

The expenditure on agricultural education per thousand male agriculturists varies from under £50 in Berks, Bucks, Hunts, Isle of Ely, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northants, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Suffolk, West Sussex, Anglesey, Brecon, Carnarvon, Denbigh, to over £100 in Derby, Durham, Kent, Stafford, Worcester, to over £175 in Cheshire, £187 in Lancashire, £204 in East Sussex, £210 in Monmouth and £220 in Surrey. The relatively high figures in Kent and Surrey are largely due to the Wye Agricultural College.

In Berkshire an Advisory Board with co-optive members has been appointed to direct agricultural education in the county and confer with the various sub-committees.

In North-Hants, grants will be made by the county council to agricultural societies which undertake instruction in the manual processes of shearing, stacking, thatching, ploughing, ditching, hedge-cutting, etc., and spend part of the grants in prizes, provided that the local education authority is adequately represented upon the special committees which control the instruction and competitions of the societies.

The Board of Agriculture and the Board of Education have arranged that in future all Parliamentary grants in respect of agricultural education shall be distributed under the guidance of a committee consisting of responsible officers of the two Boards who will consider and report on all questions as to the grants to be made in cases in which they are mutually interested.

The Board of Education will, in the main, deal with county and other local authorities including largely increased provision of farm schools for various types and grades of agricultural work

On the other hand, the carrying on of farms and experimental stations in connection with farm schools will be supervised and aided by the Board of Agriculture so that they may keep in touch with the latest and best developments in practical agriculture.

Institutions restricted to one special section, such as forestry, dairying, cider making, will also be dealt with by the Board of Agriculture.

The Board of Education has suggested the following syllabus of instruction in rural economics suitable for persons who have passed school age and are interested or employed in agricultural industry.

Land tenure, freeholds and leaseholds, allotments and small holdings, small holdings abroad, *e.g.*, in France ; conditions necessary to success, marketing co-operation, purchase and sale, history of co-operation, co-operative development in Denmark ; cost of carriage of produce by road, rail and water ; capital required for cultivating holdings, cost of tillage, the position of stock on the holding ; agricultural credit, credit banks as in Hungary and Germany, value of unexhausted improvement.

The Agricultural Organisation Society have circularised the county education committees, reminding them that instruction in agricultural co-operation may be properly included in courses in respect of which the Board of Agriculture make grants, and that the fact is now universally admitted by rural economists that the profitable cultivation of small holdings and allotments depends mainly upon the adoption of co-operative methods applied (1) to the tenure of the holding, (2) to the purchase of agricultural requisites and (3) to the disposal of produce.

POLICE.

Outside the Metropolitan area in the large towns the police are under the control of a standing joint committee, elected half by the County Council, and half by the county justices, who also appoint the Clerk of the Peace. (Sec. 9, Act of 1888.)

Half the cost of pay and clothing of the police is met by a Government grant if the Home Office certify the Force to be efficient.

The County Councils also receive this grant in the first instance for non-county boroughs which have their own police, and must pay it over when the certificate of efficiency is given.

It is extremely important that the general body of electors should have a more effective voice in future over the management of the police in cases where the interests of the inhabitants at large or any large section thereof come into conflict with the special class interests of those who control what is as a rule one of the most efficient and trustworthy branches of the public service. It is not always easy for the police to keep in check the aggressions of influential men in doubtful cases where such men and their fellows are his masters. Every law-abiding element in the community ought to have its due weight and influence in the administration of police matters.

ALLOTMENTS and SMALL HOLDINGS.

Allotments.—Under the Small Holdings Act, 1908, it is the duty of County Councils to inquire into the demand for allotments by the labouring class in rural parishes and in urban districts other than boroughs, and to supply them where the authorities of those districts have not done their duty (Sec. 24 (1)). If the County Council fail in this duty, the Board of Agriculture may hold a local inquiry and transfer their powers to the Small Holdings Commissioners (Sec. 24 (4)).

There is a duty to supply allotments up to one acre in extent, but as much as five acres may be supplied. The land may be improved and adapted for letting in allotments, and a dwelling-house erected on an allotment of one acre or more (Sec. 26). Common pasture and grazing rights may also be provided (Sec. 42).

Parish Councils may acquire land for allotments by agreement to an unlimited extent, subject to the consent of the County Council to the necessary loans (Sec. 53 (4)). They may also acquire land compulsorily by representing the case to the County Council, who may exercise the powers of compulsory purchase (Sec. 39 (7)), and assure or demise the land to the parish council, who must pay the expenses of the County Council. If the County Council fail to act an appeal may be made to the Board of Agriculture (Sec. 24 (4)).

SMALL HOLDINGS.

A small holding is defined as being land which is less than 50 acres and more than 1 acre in extent.

Small Holdings are to be supplied by County Councils and County Boroughs (Secs. 4 and 7), and by boroughs and urban district councils to persons within or without the county who apply and will themselves cultivate the holding (Sec. 1). Rules and regulations can be made by the County Council prescribing the terms and conditions on which small holdings are to be sold or let (Sec. 10). Every County Council must appoint a Small Holdings and Allotments Committee (Sec. 50) to which outsiders may be co-opted, and to which the Council may delegate all its powers except the power of raising a rate or borrowing money.

Money may be borrowed for Small Holdings from the Public Works Loans Commissioners for 80 years at 3½ per cent.

When a County Council receives applications for Small Holdings it must proceed as follows :—

(1) Inquire as to the suitability and means of the applicant so far as necessary to judge whether he can cultivate the holding (Sec. 10 (1) c).

(2) Consider whether it can proceed without loss (Secs. 7 (3) and 17 (1)).

(3) Frame a scheme for submission to the Board of Agriculture, who are empowered to pay one-half of the loss on any approved scheme (Sec. 6 (4)).

Land for Small Holdings may be acquired by agreement under the Lands Clauses Acts, but on receipt of a representation from any parish, district or borough council as to the need for small holdings, Commissioners appointed by the Board of Agriculture must report to the Board any case where it is desirable a scheme for Small Holdings should be made (Sec. 3), and the Board may require the County Council to make such a scheme within six months (Sec.4).

A new procedure is applied for land taken compulsorily (Secs. 38 to 44). The Council may submit an order to the Board of Agriculture for taking the land compulsorily, and after a local inquiry the order may be confirmed by the Board and the compensation determined by a single arbitrator, who shall not make any additional allowance in respect of compulsory purchase. The land may be either bought or hired for a period not less than 14 nor more than 35 years (Sec. 39 (2)).

No land may be acquired compulsorily which is part of any park, garden, or pleasure ground, or forms part of the home farm usually occupied and attached to a mansion house, or which is woodland or part of a holding less than 50 acres in extent (Sec. 41).

Land may be let by either County or Parish Councils to persons working on a co-operative system or to associations formed for the purpose of creating or promoting allotments or small holdings (Secs. 9 (2) and 27 (6)).

A County Council may form and assist societies on a co-operative basis having for their object the provision or profitable working of small holdings or allotments, whether in—

(a) The purchase of requisites ;

(b) The sale of produce;

(c) Credit banking;

(d) Insurance or otherwise ;

and may make grants or advance to such societies or guarantee advances. (Sec. 49.)

In Ireland the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural Organisation Society have established 961 societies, with a membership of 100,000 and an annual turnover of £2,000,000. There are 273 credit societies, 203 dairy societies, 175 agricultural societies, 103 home industries societies, 34 poultry societies, and 15 flax societies, and they are increasing weekly.

Small Holdings Acquired.

The following statement to the Board of Agriculture up to the 2nd October, 1909, shows the area of land acquired by agreement and by compulsory powers respectively.

I. Area of land acquired or arranged to be acquired **voluntarily** by County Councils.

	Acres.		Acres.
Bedford	2,182	Salop	793
Berks	1,808	Soke of Peterborough	208
Bucks	935	Somerset	3,439
Cambridge	2,470	Southampton	606
Cheshire	1,020	Stafford	769
Cornwall	1,489	Suffolk, East	395
Cumberland	222	Suffolk, West	715
Derby	311	Surrey	293
Devon	1,295	Sussex, East	97
Dorset	1,091	Sussex, West	9
Durham	820	Warwick	746
Essex	1,245	Westmorland	80
Gloucester	1,171	Wilts	1,182
Hereford	1,054	Worcester	775
Hertford	815	Yorks—East Riding	1,096
Hunts	1,415	,, North Riding	200
Isle of Ely	2,003	,, West Riding	633
Isle of Wight	544	Anglesey	517
Kent	1,165	Brecon	10
Lancashire	167	Cardigan	298
Leicester	1,262	Carmarthen	206
Lincoln—Holland	1,344	Carnarvon	67
,, Kesteven	1,768	Denbigh	1,091
,, Lindsey	1,256	Flint	146
Middlesex	94	Glamorgan	191
Monmouth	972	Merioneth	—
Norfolk	3,548	Montgomery	662
Northampton	1,308	Pembroke	1,582
Northumberland	1,809	Radnor	341
Notts	593	8 County Boroughs	1,150
Oxford	994		
Rutland	232	Total	56,389

II. Area of land acquired or proposed to be acquired under **Compulsory Orders** by County Councils.

	Acres.		Acres.
Bucks	339	Sussex, East	34
Cambridge	334	Sussex, West	35
Cornwall	465	Warwick	150
Cumberland	12	Wilts	640
Devon	422	Yorks, East Riding	13
Dorset	28	Yorks, West Riding	191
Essex	59	Brecon	276
Gloucester	137	Cardigan	1,069
Hereford	161	Carmarthen	270
Hertford	543	Carnarvon	206
Hunts	896	Denbigh	67
Kent	42	Flint	188
Leicester	49	Glamorgan	361
Monmouth	380	Merioneth	370
Norfolk	692	Pembroke	97
Northampton	571	8 County Boroughs	673
Oxford	247		
Salop	342	Total	10,866
Southampton	274		
Stafford	53		

Altogether there were 728 voluntary schemes for acquiring 56,389 acres, and 141 compulsory schemes for acquiring 10,866 acres, or a total of 67,255 acres. It is interesting to note that 39,286 acres were purchased outright, and 27,969 acres were hired. When population is taken into consideration there is a noticeable disparity in the figures for the various counties.

A small Holdings and Allotments Committee has been appointed by every County Council, and in the great majority of cases full powers have been delegated to it by the Council. Non-members of the Council have been co-optive in Anglesey, Bucks, Cheshire, Denbigh, Essex, Montgomery, Rutland, Salop, Surrey, Westmoreland and Worcester. In most cases local sub-committees have been appointed, consisting of members of the committee with the addition of representative of the minor local authorities and other persons interested.

The Commissioners say that applicants who are rejected because they are considered unsuitable should be so informed, and where the reason for rejection is the insufficiency of capital the applicant should be told that the Council will be ready to consider an application for a smaller quantity of land than that originally applied for.

Nothing in the Act prevents a Council providing holdings for applicants who, though engaged in some other occupation, have sufficient spare time for the successful cultivation of small holdings, and many of the most successful holdings are in districts where the conditions are favourable to such an arrangement. County Councils are not justified in refusing applications of this character, or in relegating them to a secondary place.

In many counties there is a profound feeling of discouragement and dissatisfaction at the working of the Act, and a policy of drift with interminable delays and private arrangements between the County Councils and landlords still hold the field.

One of the greatest difficulties under the Act arises from the need of securing greater support from tenant farmers in the giving up of land, which is a rather difficult matter because compensation is not given for disturbance. There is no doubt the Government Grant should be applied to facilitate a change in this respect.

Loans for Small Holdings.

As a rule the Local Government Board accepts recommendations of the Commissioners with regard to loans for the purchase or equipment of land to small holdings. In all cases of the purchase of freehold land as distinct from the buildings upon it the maximum period of 80 years is allowed, and in the case of buildings whatever period is justified by their character and probable life up to a maximum of 50 years is allowed.

In the case of loans for fencing the Local Government Board only allow 15 years, although they frequently sanction 25 years for this purpose under the Lands Improvement Acts.

Under the Small Holdings Acts, 89 loans were sanctioned up to the 31st March, 1909, for a total of £285,523. Seventeen Councils have borrowed £192,974 of this amount from the Public Works Loan Commissioners under Sec. 14 (2) (b) of the Act of 1907.

Forty of the above loans were for a period of 80 years, 12 for 50 years, 10 for 40 years, and the others for shorter periods.

All County Councils have decided to include sinking fund charges in the rents of holdings.

Repayment of Councils' Expenses.

(1.) The Board of Agriculture repay half the expenses of ascertaining the demand for small holdings incurred before the 1st April, 1910.

(2.) They repay the whole of the expenses of proceedings in relation to the acquisition of land for small holdings, but after the land has been acquired, the expenses in connection with the preparation of schemes and sale or letting of the holdings should be treated as part of the costs of the scheme, and recouped out of the rent. This is estimated to cost from £1 to 30s. an acre.

(3.) Each Council has to analyse his expenditure under the heads of salaries, travelling expenses, fees to valuers, office and general expenses, and send it to the Board. The time of the various land agents and other officers specially appointed must be apportioned according to the proportion of time spent on (a) ascertaining the demand, (b) acquisition of land, (c) management, etc.

(4.) The Board will repay conveyancing expenses, stamp duty, scale charges of solicitor, preparing and settling a draft conveyance and completing the purchase in connection with the acquisition of land, but they are not prepared to repay negotiation fees unless the circumstances are exceptional.

Vendor's Solicitors' costs may be repaid also by the Board, but if in any sale at auction the vendor should claim costs under Section 82 of the Land Clauses Act, 1845, the claim should be contested after communication with the Board.

The conveyancing cost of land acquired on lease will be paid by the lessee and repaid by the Board, together with the stamp duty, and the scale charging for perusing and settling the lease and completing.

The Board will not in ordinary cases repay expenses which vendors and lessors sometimes incur, but which, in the absence of agreement, they would be unable to recover from the Council.

Expenditure incurred in relation to the acquisition of land is repaid by the Board so soon as it has been paid by the County Councils. In the case of expenses of ascertaining the demand for small holdings, the Treasury Regulations require that the accounts of the Councils shall be audited before the repayment is made.

Agricultural Tenant Right Valuation.

The Board of Agriculture are of opinion that as a general rule the small holding tenants should pay the tenant right valuation on entry, but they would not object to an arrangement whereby payment in respect of tillages, seeds, etc., might be deferred until the tenant has been able to realise the following crop, and in the case of hop gardens, and others where some part of the tenant right has to be sacrificed, the amount might be spread over a term of years and added to the rents. In the event of failure of the tenant to make repayment, the amount which cannot be recovered will be taken into account by the Board in estimating the irrecoverable loss under the scheme, half of which they may contribute.

Section 47 (1) of the Small Holdings Act, 1908, gives the tenant of a holding under the Council the right to compensation for market garden improvements, unless they are executed contrary to an express prohibition in writing by the Council. It is important that Councils should encourage such forms of cultivation, but as the claims for compensation under the Market Gardeners Act may be very heavy, and as it may be difficult to recover anything from the landlord, or to find an incoming tenant willing to pay compensation on entry, it is desirable that such financial arrangements should be made either that a loan should be obtained in the case of permanent improvement, or that the extra expenditure should be dealt with in a suspensory account and recouped by repayment of additional rent.

The Cheshire County Council have endorsed on small holdings agreements the following memorandum—

> " For the purpose of protecting the Council from any claims to compensation for the undermentioned improvements, the Council prohibit, subject to the appeal provided by Section 47 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908, the planting in the holding of any fruit trees or bushes, strawberry plants, asparagras, rhubarb, or other vegetable crops, which continue productive for 2 or more years."

Repairs and Management.

As a general rule the Board consider that 7½ per cent. will cover management and contingencies for bare land without buildings and that in the case of land with buildings an additional 7½ to 12½ should be allowed for repairs and insurance, making a total of from 15 to 20 per cent.

The Somersetshire County Council have resolved that the following additions be made to the estimated annual outgoings of small holdings in calculating the rents to be charged to small holdings :—

(a) Where there is no building on the small holding, 7½ per cent. should be added to the rent for office and establishment charges, together with a reasonable addition for repairs and contingencies.

(b) Where there are buildings, such a percentage as the valuers may advise having regard to the size, age, and repair of the buildings, up to a maximum of 20 per cent., on the following basis—5 per cent. for management, 10 per cent. for repairs, 2½ per cent. for insurance, and 2½ per cent. for contingencies.

(c) The charge for management of holdings let to an Association under Section 9 of the Act is reduced to 5 per cent.

Small Holdings Associations.

Although applications have been made for land by 130 Co-operative Small Holdings and Allotments Societies under Section 27 of the Act of 1908, only 20 of the Societies have been or are being supplied with land by the County Councils, as follows :—

In Northamptonshire—Clipson, 107 acres ; Rothwell, 59½ acres ; Rushden, 264 acres ; Hannington, 31 acres ; Hargrave, 17 acres ; Nathar Heyford, 140 acres ; Irchester, 15 acres ; Kingsthorpe, 335 acres ; this last by the Northampton Borough Council.

In Bedfordshire—Biggleswade Society, 368 acres last year, with another 250 acres this year, while land has also been provided for the Stotfold Society.

In Norfolk—Wayland Society, 285 acres ; in Wiltshire, Mere Society, 250 acres.

Other Societies for which land has been provided or offered by County Councils and City Councils are—Timberland (Kesteven, Lincolnshire), Oadby (Leicestershire), Street (Somerset), Bardwell (West Suffolk), Cardiff and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Where associations have made mixed application for both small holdings and allotments the County Council are not justified in acquiring land in excess of the immediate and prospective demand of the actual application, and in letting land to an association, a County Council should make provision to secure that it shall not be used for allotments of one acre or less without the consent of the Council first being obtained.

The capital should be equal to three years rent of the land ; or, the societies should pay six months rent in advance and provide that the uncalled capital should amount to a further 18 months rent. County Council need not enquire as to whether the individual tenants have sufficient capital to farm the land properly, but it is

reasonable that in default of any outside guarantee of the rents, a Council might ask for information on the management and the class of members admitted.

Bucks, Cambridge, Cheshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Lancashire have employed, while Berkshire and Wiltshire have arranged to employ, organisers from the Agricultural Organisation Society to give instruction in agricultural co-operation ; generally on the initiative of the County Education Committees or Agricultural Instructors. The Small Holdings Committees of Cambridgeshire and Cheshire are practically alone in doing this work through the Small Holdings Committee under Section 49 of the Small Holdings Act, 1908, and this is about all the work that has been done.

Where Councils desire to house applicants, they may either erect new cottages or purchase existing ones.

Up to the 15th December, 1908, 43 dwelling houses had been erected under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908, of which 22 were in Cheshire. In addition to these a number of existing houses and buildings had been adapted and subdivided, in other words more dwellings have been provided under the Small Holdings Act in twelve months than had been provided in rural districts under the Housing Act in 18 years.

CREDIT SOCIETIES.

The following question and answer in the House of Commons show that the County Councils had done very little up to March, 1910 :—

> March 16. *Q*. Mr. Ellis Davies.—To ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, how many County Councils have established or assisted in the establishment of Credit Banks under the Small Holdings Act, 1907.
>
> *A*. Sir Edward Strachey.—So far as we are aware, no such steps have been taken as yet by any County Council.

County Councils ought to lend their authority and assistance to an active propaganda in promotion of land banks or credit societies, such as are already doing such valuable work in foreign countries, in Ireland, and in Egypt. The Raiffeisen system is most suitable to village needs in England. Under it a number of industrious men of good character meet and form themselves into a society and undertake unlimited liability both as individuals and collectively for the working capital they may require, so that a new kind of security is created which sixty years' Continental experience has shown to be as safe as any real property held in mortgage. Loans are only made for productive purposes ; no salaries are paid except for the absolutely essential clerical work ; there is no division of profits among the members ; and, naturally, the committee rejects any proposed member whose character and credit they do not accept as reliable. In particular, the local branches of existing banks should be encouraged by the County Councils to utilise their machinery for helping to form societies.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Under this Act the following powers and duties are placed upon County Councils:—

(a) A County Medical Officer of Health, who shall not engage in private practice, must be appointed, whose duties will be prescribed by order of the Local Government Board. He shall not be removable without the consent of the Board. (Sec. 68.) He shall have power to call on officers of district councils to supply him with information as to the discharge of sanitary duties in their districts, as well as representations on the subject of the housing of the working class. (Sec. 69.) He shall have the same power of entry for purposes of inspection as a district Medical Officer of Health. (Sec. 68.)

(b) A Public Health and Housing Committee must be appointed by every County Council to carry out the powers and duties of the County Council in these matters except the power of raising a rate or borrowing money or resolution to act in default of a district council. (Sec. 71.)

(c) A copy of all representations, complaints, and informations under the Housing Act to district councils must be sent to the county authorities. (Sec. 69.)

(d) Default powers in respect of the non-exercise of their Housing duties by Rural District Councils are, or may be, given by order of the Local Government Board in respect of the following among other matters:—

Buying land and building cottages for workmen (Secs. 10 (3) and 13 (3).)

Enforcing the inspection of the district

Keeping in repair workmen's houses.

Closing and demolishing dwellings unfit for habitation (Sec. 10.)

By Section 45 of the Housing Act of 1890 the County Council must be furnished with a copy of all representations made to rural district councils as to unhealthy dwelling-houses and obstructive buildings, as well as information as to closing orders, so that the County Council may in case of default of the Rural District Council take over these powers themselves and make closing or demolition orders as the case may require.

(e) Carrying out of Part III. schemes under the principal Act may be decided upon by the County Council on complaint of any four householders, or the Council of a Parish, and the powers of the Rural District Council transferred accordingly. (Sec. 12.)

(f) Concurrent powers under Part III. may be obtained for County Councils with the approval of the Local Government Board. Expenses to be General. (Sec. 13.)

(g) County Building Societies may be promoted, assisted, or extended, provided they are on a co-operative basis and that any advance on the security of property does not exceed two-thirds of the value of that property. (Sec. 72.)

(h) Gardens may be attached to cottages built by County Councils under Part III. with land an acre in extent.

(i) County Councils may make complaint as to default of urban or rural district councils under Part II. (unhealthy houses) or Part III. (building of new dwellings) of the principal Act. (Sec. 10 (1).)

(k) County Councils " interested in any land " which is the subject of a Town Planning scheme are entitled to receive notice of any proposal to prepare or adopt such a scheme at the earliest stage possible (Sec. 56 (2)), and may probably make a representation to the Local Government Board where any local authority is default in the preparation or enforcement of a Town Planning scheme. (Sec. 61 (1) (2).)

ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1909.

This Act gives power to the Treasury to make a grant or loan to County Councils (among other bodies) out of a fund called the Development Fund on the recommendation of the Development Commissioners for any of the following purposes :—

(a) Aiding and developing agriculture and rural industries by promoting scientific research, instruction and experiments in the science, methods and practice of agriculture (including the provision of farm-institutes), the organisation of co-operation, instruction in marketing produce, and the extension of the provision of small holdings ; and by the adoption of any other means which appear calculated to develop agriculture and rural industries ;

(b) Forestry (including (1) the conducting of inquiries, experiments, and research for the purpose of promoting forestry and the teaching of methods of afforestation; (2) the purchase and planting of land found after inquiry to be suitable for afforestation);

(c) The reclamation and drainage of land;

(d) The general improvement of rural transport (including the making of light railways, but not including the construction or improvement of roads);

(e) The construction and improvement of harbours;

(f) The construction and improvement of inland navigations;

(g) The development and improvement of fisheries;

and for any other purpose calculated to promote the economic development of the United Kingdom. (Sec. 1.)

For the purposes of this part of this Act the expression "agriculture and rural industries" includes agriculture, horticulture, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle, and other live stock and poultry, the cultivation of bees, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of flax, the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco, and any industries immediately connected with and subservient to any of the said matters. (Sec. 6.)

Where money is advanced for any of the above purposes, the Development Commissioners may give power to the County Councils to acquire land compulsorily on small holdings terms. (Sec. 5.)

A Development Fund is established by Sec. 2, and Development Commissions are provided for in Secs. 3 and 4.

The second part of the Act establishes a National Road Board, who shall have power, with the approval of the Treasury—

(a) To make advances to County Councils and other highway authorities in respect of the construction of new roads or the improvement of existing roads;

(b) To construct and maintain any new roads;

which appear to the Board to be required for facilitating road traffic. (Sec. 8.)

(1) Where the Treasury have approved a proposal by the Road Board to construct a new road under this part of this Act, the Board may acquire land for the purpose, and may, in addition, **acquire land on either side of the proposed road within two hundred and twenty yards from the middle of the proposed road.** (Sec. 11 (1).)

(2) The Road Board may acquire, erect, and furnish such offices and other buildings as they may require, and may acquire land for the purpose. (Sec. 11 (2).)

(3) Where a highway authority are authorised to construct a new road under this part of this Act, or an advance is made to such an authority in respect of the improvement of an existing road, the authority may acquire land for the purpose of such construction or improvement. (Sec. 11 (3).)

(4) The Road Board shall have full power, with the approval of the Treasury, to sell, lease, and manage any land acquired by them under this part of this Act and not required for the new road, and any receipts derived from any such land, so far as they are applied for the purposes of the construction of new roads, shall not be treated as part of the expenditure of the Road Board on new roads for the purpose of the provisions of this Act limiting the amount of expenditure of the Road Board on new roads. (Sec. 11 (6).)

(5) The sums expended by the Road Board out of income on the construction of new roads or the acquisition of land, or in respect of any loan raised for any such purpose, shall not in any year exceed one-third of the estimated receipts of the Road Board for that year. (Sec. 8 (3).)

(6) All expenses of the Road Board under this part of this Act, including the salary of the chairman or vice-chairman and the salaries and the remuneration of officers and servants, to such amount as may be sanctioned by the Treasury, shall be defrayed out of the road improvement grant. (Sec. 12.)

BRIDGES.

Bridges and roads repairable with bridges in disturnpiked roads are repairable by the County Council. (Sec. 3, Local Government Act, 1888.)

A County Council may make such contribution as it sees fit up to one-half the cost of erecting any bridge (Sec. 22, Highways Act, 1888), and may erect new bridges or purchase and improve old bridges (Sec. 6, Local Government Act, 1888.) Land may be purchased for the erection of a new bridge (Sec. 65, Act of 1888) and agreements may be entered into with other County Councils or highway authorities for the construction, alteration, or freeing from toll of any bridges and their approaches (Sec. 3, Highways and Bridges Act, 1891).

MAIN ROADS.

Main roads are vested in and maintainable by the County Council, but in some cases the Town or Urban District Council have elected to repair them or the County Council have required them to do so, and in such cases they carry out the work in return for an annual contribution from the County Council, the amount of which is generally settled by agreement, but in default thereof by the Local Government Board. (Secs. 11 and 63, Local Government Act, 1888.)

The two kinds of main roads are (1) roads which were turnpike roads on the 31st December, 1870, but are no longer such, and (2) roads which have been declared to be main roads by order of the County Council.

Before 1888 only half the main road expenses was chargeable on the county, and it did not include loan expenditure or cost of improvements, nor the expense of converting a macadamised road into a paved road, while it included only so much of the scavenging as was necessary for the maintenance of the road. Now the whole of the expenses for repair and improvement fall on the county funds except where the road is in an urban district and the urban authority has " claimed " to retain the maintenance of it.

A highway authority may apply to the County Council for an order declaring any highway in their district which is " a medium of communication between great towns or a thoroughfare to a railway station " to be a main road, but the decision rests with the County Council. (Sec. 15, Highways and Locomotives Act, 1878.)

The County Council may remove encroachments from a main road whether made before or after the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894. (Sec. 26.)

Many disputes have occurred as to the amount of contribution to be paid by County Councils, largely owing to the difference of opinion as to the legal definition of the word "towards" (Sec. 11 (2)) of the Act of 1888, and also as to what constitutes efficient maintenance. Many think that the urban authorities are prima facie entitled to the entire cost of maintenance, repair and reasonable improvement, but that if any amount had to be settled by arbitration all expenditure which is extravagant, unnecessary, or unreasonable, would be disallowed.

Most County Councils do not look upon watering, scavenging and cleansing as essential parts of the maintenance of a road, but to a great extent they must be so. There is, however, a wide variation in the amount paid per mile for scavenging in the various counties. Very often roads in limestone counties, which need it most, being allowed less than roads in granite road counties.

Another difficulty arises over the unwillingness of some County Councils to make quarterly payments to the minor authorities who cannot afford to lay out their money, and thereby lose the interest by waiting nearly a year for payment.

Out of 40 County Councils 21 give quarterly payments, 14 half-yearly payments, and 5 give yearly payments.

The widening of main roads is often carried out by Towns or Urban District Councils in their own area with only a grant of from one-third to one-half the cost from the county authority, although the latter are, of course, primarily responsible for the condition of those roads. (Sec. 3, Highways and Bridges Act, 1891.)

The lighting of main roads is wholly within the jurisdiction of the minor local authorities. (Sec. 11 (11) Local Government Act, 1888.)

Ordinary highways may become so important as to enable the County Council to declare them to be main roads, or, on the other hand, main roads may be reduced to the position of ordinary roads. In the latter case the sanction of the Local Government Board is required. (Sections 15 and 16, Highways and Locomotives Act, 1878.)

Under the England Development Act extensive new powers are given to County Councils acting in conjunction with the National Road Board, but these are dealt with under the heading of the Development Act. It may, however, be pointed out how desirable it is that County Councils should adopt a main road policy in conjunction with the National Road Board established by the second part of the England Development Act, 1909, so as not only to secure advances in respect of the construction of new roads and the improvement of existing roads, but also to specially facilitate schemes by the Board for the construction of new roads where the Board propose to acquire land for the purpose, and, in addition, to acquire land on either side of the proposed road within 220 yards from the middle thereof. (Sec. 11, Development Act, 1909.)

The mileage of main roads in 1908 was 27,638, of which there were directly maintained by the County Councils 595 miles in urban districts, costing £122,025, or an average of £205 per mile, and 16,941 miles in rural districts, costing £1,228,280, or £73 per mile. There were maintained by other local authorities in urban districts 3,586 miles, towards which the County Council contributed £800,654, or an average of £223 per mile. Rural District Councils maintained 6,516 miles for £463,078, or an average of £71 per mile.

The following authorities are spending money in the tar-spraying or tar painting of main roads as follows :—Bucks, over £3,000 ; Herts, £2,300 ; Kent, £5,000 ; Surrey, £3,500; East Sussex, £4,500 ; Middlesex, £4,500 ; Essex, £3,000.

In Middlesex the District and Borough Council are allowed to charge in their accounts for the maintenance of main roads amounts for tar painting on the following scale :—

If carried out by hand labour, 1¾d. per yard super.

If carried out by horse machine, 1d. per yard super.

If carried out by mechanical spreaders, ¾d. per yard super.

The lengths of road treated have to be first approved of by the county highway committee, and the charges for watering on roads thus dealt with must not exceed ½d. per square yard per annum.

Surrey County Council are paying two-thirds of the cost of tarring unclaimed main roads as a rule, instead of one-half as heretofore, but where tarring will substantially lengthen the life of the road, the County Council will bear the whole cost.

Lancashire—the grants for main roads was as follows in 1908: —Corporations, £301 per mile; urban districts, £260 per mile; rural districts, £170 per mile; direct control by County, £142 per mile.

The expenditure on other roads by local authorities showed a rate per mile for secondary roads of £129 in urban districts, and £7 in rural districts; and for district roads, £102 in urban districts and £19 in rural districts.

The Middlesex County Council possess great lengths of light railway or tramway roads on which, in 1908, they expended £5,500 towards the cost of maintenance.

In the North Riding the county surveyor made a careful investigation of the amount of sweepings from 123 miles of main roads during last summer. The total loss of sweepings on one mile of road per annum is 42 tons 12 cwt., and of screenings 6 tons 9 cwt., or 8 per cent. in value per annum of the cost of maintenance. The damage is chiefly done by large motor cars tearing stone up to ½ in. gauge out of the roads, so that it becomes pulverised and lost as wearing material. Tar macadam has been used with some success to prevent this evil.

The Local Government Board say that under Section 11 (4) of the Local Government Act, 1888, a County Council and a Rural District Council may enter into an agreement on terms which would make part of the cost of tar painting or spraying roads payable by the Rural District Council.

WORK AND WAGES.

County Councils as large employers of labour, either directly or indirectly, can do a great deal for the working classes by setting up model conditions as regards hours of labour, rates of wages, the distribution of work, the general conditions of employment, and the prevention of favouritism or injustice in the selection, promotion and other dealings with all persons employed. They spend millions of pounds every year.

During 1907-8, 17,536 miles of roads were maintained by County Councils at a cost of £1,350,305, and nearly half of this was spent on labour directly employed by the Councils themselves.

The following list of loans sanctioned for County Councils during the year ended 31st March, 1909, indicates some of the purposes for which money is spent, employing contractors and workmen in various ways.

School buildings and other purposes connected with administration of the Education Acts, £1,482,134 ; Building Lunatic Asylums, £258,964 ; Police stations, offices and other county buildings, £67,723 ; altering roads and bridges, £32,326 ; laying out open spaces, £14,526 ; Isolation Hospitals, £12,405.

The total amount borrowed for these and similar purposes during the last 20 years amounts to over £17,000,000.

The best County Councils are bound by their standing orders to insert in every contract for work to be entered into by the Council a clause binding the contractor " to pay such rates of wages and to observe such hours of labour as are generally accepted as fair in his trade," together with a provision against " sub-contracting or underletting the contract or any part thereof without the previous consent of the Council." This clause not only prevents sweating, but also secures that good employers of labour who treat their workmen properly should have a preference over others.

All of these clauses are enforced by penalties.

The London County Council adds to each contract a schedule of wages, and wages for overtime respectively, which are in accordance with the Trades Union rates, and if any workman has been underpaid the council have the right to pay the full money and deduct it from the amount due to the contractor.

Birmingham requires the payment of not less than the recognised minimum standard rate of wages current in the district where such work shall be carried out.

Sheffield prescribes that where there is no standard rate for hours and wages for any district the contractor shall pay the minimum rate of wages recognised by trade societies in Sheffield, and observe the proper conditions of labour prevailing there in respect of the particular trade in which such men are employed.

The distribution of work can also be improved by the systematic exercise of such planning and foresight as will secure that wherever possible public works shall be done at slack times, so as to steady employment rather than, as often happens now, accentuate trade " booms " and their corresponding " slumps."

Section 18 of the Development Act specially provides that in approving executing or making advances in the respect of any work under the Act involving the employment of labour on a considerable scale regard shall be had, so far as it is reasonably practicable, to the general state and prospects of employment.

Although the policy of setting up relief works is open to very serious criticism and at best may be considered as the choice of two evils, it appears from returns issued by the Local Government Board, that a very considerable number of men have been enabled by this means to avoid the breaking up of their home, by coming under the Poor Law.

During the four years 1906 to 1909, inclusive, 352,435 applications were entertained by Distress Committees, and 202,913 were provided with work. Two-thirds of these applications were in provincial areas, and the percentage of applications entertained by the provincial committees was no less than 75 per cent.

Any County Council may apply to the Local Government Board for an order establishing a central unemployed body and distress committees in the county under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905 (Sec. 2 (2)), which continues in force until 31st December, 1911.

Gloucestershire delegated to its Unemployment Committee power to apply to the Local Government Board, if considered necessary, that they might be appointed a central body.

Herts applied to the Local Government Board for an order establishing a central body with Distress Committees for the three principal urban districts.

Worcestershire applied for an order to be a central body, and also for a grant besides taking steps to form a labour bureau.

Where no distress committee has been so formed the County Council must constitute a special committee consisting of members of the Council with power to co-opt additional members up to one-fourth of the total number of the committee. Power is given to establish or maintain Labour Exchanges or Employment registers up to the 20th September, 1910.

Central bodies may establish with the consent of the Local Government Board farm colonies with temporary accommodation for those working thereon, and may acquire land and accept money or employ officers and provide offices for the purpose.

They may also co-operate with other bodies and local authorities having power under the Act, and may assist unemployed workmen by aiding their emigration or by providing them with temporary work so as to put them in a position to obtain regular work or other means of supporting themselves.

GENERAL.

The following notes on various Acts, Duties and Powers within the sphere of County administration may be useful :—

Assessments.—The County Rate Act, 1852, provides for the preparation of " a basis or standard for fair and equal county rates," such basis or standard to be founded and prepared rateably and equally according to the full and fair annual value of the property, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments rateable to the relief of the poor in every parish, township, borough or place. This duty was transferred to County Councils by Sec. 3, Act of 1888.

Asylums for Pauper Lunatics.—The provision, enlargement, maintenance, management and visitation of, and other dealings with Asylums for pauper lunatics is a duty of County Councils, which must act through Asylums Committees, possessing considerable independent powers in many matters. (Secs. 3 vi., 38, 86 and 111, Act of 1888.)

An Act was passed in 1909 making it an obligation to Asylum authorities to grant superannuation allowances to their Officers and servants after definite periods of approved service and to provide for contributions from the officers and servants in aid thereof.

Byelaws may be made by County Councils with respect to "the width and construction of the wheels of waggons; to locking such wheels while descending hills; gates across or opening outwards on highways." (Sec. 26, Highways and Locomotive Act, 1878.)

The Cinematograph Act, 1908, provides that for cinematograph exhibitions premises must be licensed by County and Borough Councils annually.

Complaints to County Councils may be made by Parish Councils in respect of the default of District Councils as to :—

(a) Enforcement of the Public Health Act, and the provision of Sewers and Water Supply (Sec. 16, Local Government Act, 1894).

(b) Non-repair of highway (Sec. 10, Highways and Locomotives Act, 1878.)

(c) Obstruction or stopping of public rights of way (Sec.26 (4), Local Government Act, 1894).

(d) Carrying out of the Housing Acts (Sec. 10, Housing Act, 1909), and in most cases the County Council may, if other means fail, step in and do the work or otherwise execute the provisions of the various Acts relating to these matters. Complaints may aso be made by individuals as to the failure of Parish Councils to provide allotments (Sec. 24,Small Holdings Act, 1908).

In East Sussex during the year 1908 only three unhealthy cottages were formally dealt with under the Housing Act, Part II., by rural district councils.

Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, 1894.—With the exception of those provisions relating to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, which are supervised by urban and rural district councils, the local authority under this Act outside boroughs with a population of 10,000 or more is the County Council. Places and areas are, in certain cases, declared to be infected with cattle-plague (Secs. 5 and 6), with pleuro-pneumonia or foot and mouth disease (Secs. 8, 9, 12), and under Sec. 10, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries may make general orders for prescribing the cases in which places and areas are to be declared infected with other diseases.

Dancing and Music Licenses must be obtained for places ordinarily used for public dancing or music where the Public Health Act, 1890, has been adopted (Sec. 51), and within 20 miles of the Cities of London and Westminster (Sec. 2, Disorderly Houses Act, 1751), provided access is afforded with or without payment to the public generally as distinguished from subscribers or any other limited body of persons.

The Explosives Act, 1875, regulates the manufacture and keeping of explosives otherwise than on a small scale for private use.

Footpaths, whether paved in towns or along county roads, must be maintained by the County Council "in a fit and proper condition for the traffic which for the time being usually passes over it." The County Council may contribute to the improvement of any path, not part of a main road, and may impose conditions on the grant of such contributions (Sec. 11 (10), Act of 1888).

Game Act, 1831.—Licenses to deal in game include hares, pheasants, partridges, grouse, heath or moor game, black game and bustards.

Infectious Diseases.—In order that the county medical officer should be well informed as to the nature and extent of infectious disease prevalent in the various districts in the county, the following scheme has been carried out in many counties :—

Each district medical officer of health is provided every month with a reply post card printed with suitable heading on which to make a return of the number of cases of certain infectious diseases which have occurred in his district during that month. These returns are tabulated by the county medical officer who forwards to each district medical officer a complete return for the whole of the districts in the county, thus enabling all concerned to better trace out the origin and source of infectious cases. The cost does not exceed £1 per month.

Inquiries by the County Council must be held in public before making orders ; expenses incurred for inquiries on the application of the Council of a parish or district, or the inhabitants thereof, must be paid by the locality concerned, but in all other cases will be paid out of the County fund (Sec. 72).

Inspection of Food and Drugs.—The County Council have to administer the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, which protects the purchaser against the delivery of any article "which differs in substance, nature, or quality from the one demanded." The Act requires the appointment by the County Council of "one or more persons possessing competent knowledge, skill and experience as analysts of all food and drugs sold within the said counties." Inspectors are also generally appointed who look after the proper

weighing of bread and coal, and carry out the testing and inspection of weights and measures.

According to the report of the Local Government Board, 1908-9, 95,664 samples of food and drugs were taken during that year, representing one to every 188 of the population in London, and one to every 391 of the population in the Provinces. The Analyst reported against 8,169 of these and 3,643 summonses were issued, which were followed by the infliction of penalties in 2,637 cases. In 173 cases there were warrants of purity from the wholesale dealers and the summonses were withdrawn in order to proceed against them.

Out of 45,093 samples of milk taken, 10 per cent. were found to be adulterated, and although the heavy adulteration of previous years is no longer so prevalent there were very many samples just on the margin, owing to the fact that the milk had been robbed of some portion of its fat.

Out of 306 samples of cream, 126 had boric acid in excess and 63 had boric acid which was not, however, in excess.

Out of 20,729 samples of butter, 7.5 per cent. were wrong.

There seems to have been a growing practice to sell margarine as butter mixture, or to add moisture to butter to the extent of nearly 20 per cent.

Out of 441 samples of sausages, 171, or 38.8 per cent., were condemned.

Out of 384 samples of canned meat, 64 per cent. contained boric acid in excess.

Generally speaking the use of preservatives seemed greatly to be on the increase.

Drugs were found to be adulterated to the extent of 9 per cent.

Isolation Hospitals.—County Councils may secure the provision in any district in the County of a hospital for the reception of patients suffering from infectious diseases, and for this purpose may facilitate the formation of a group of local authorities who shall use the same hospital. (Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893 and 1901.)

A scheme for the exchange of nurses engaged in Isolation Hospitals has been enforced in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and the West Riding of Yorkshire, thus enabling a Hospital in which there may for the moment be few patients to lend a nurse or nurses to another Hospital in which there has been a sudden influx of cases. The payments made for nurses so exchanged are rather more than the ordinary salary.

Medical Officers of Health.—Half the salary of the medical officer of health is now paid to District Councils and Non-County Borough Councils out of the County Fund except where forfeited by neglect.

Medical Inspection.—Medical inspectors and school nurses have been appointed in some counties, while district medical officers have been utilised in other counties, sometimes with the help of women Health Visitors, to examine the school children. Most of the parents approve of the inspection, particularly when explained to them by the Health Visitor who called on the parents of children that are found to be suffering severely and endeavour to obtain their co-operation in remedial measures.

It is extremely important that there should be close co-operation between the Local Education Authority and their officers, the school medical officers, the teachers and the parents, with uniformity in the system adopted for preparing the schedule. (Sec. 13, Education Act, 1907.)

Midwives.—Under Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, uncertified women will be prohibited after 31st March, 1910, from "attending habitually and for gain" women in childbirth except under the direction of the medical practitioner or in cases of emergency. In the event of a serious deficiency arising it is left to the Central Midwives Board to modify the conditions of certification.

The County Councils have to supervise and secure the proper certification of midwives with a view to reporting to the Central Midwives Board any women against whom they find prima-facie cases of malpractice, negligence or misconduct under Section 8 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902. Such offences as uncleanliness, neglect to send for medical help, neglect of cases, and failure to notify have been followed either by severe censure or disqualification.

The proper administration of this measure tends to greatly reduce the mortality at birth.

In twenty-nine out of the 50 English administrative counties, the inspection of midwives is carried out by a woman, generally under the supervision of the county medical officer of health. In Derbyshire most of the midwifery scholarships have been given to married women rather than to district nurses, so that some one may be available in nearly every district.

Health visitors have been appointed in Northants (a) to watch over the upbringing of infants, and (b) to make a house to house inspection of certain areas.

Nursing Associations.—Twenty-seven counties have a central organisation for training and supplying nurses and midwives, *i.e.*, a county nursing association, and in twenty-five cases grants are given to it by the county councils varying from £80 to £800 for such purposes as nursing scholarships, training of village nurses as midwives, and midwifery scholarship.

Old Age Pensions Act, 1908.—County Councils must appoint local Pension Committees, which may appoint local Sub-Committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committee who need not be members of the Council, to consider and determine in the first instance all claims for old age pensions in those areas in the county not included in any borough or urban district having a population exceeding 10,000. Clerks may be appointed at a remuneration settled by the Local Government Board.

Orders may be made by the County Council for :—

Alteration of parish and other boundaries (Sec. 57, Act of 1888).

New election in case of any difficulty (Sec. 48 (5), Act of 1894).

Compulsory purchase or hiring of land for allotments (Sec. 9, Act of 1894).

Appointment, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners, of trustees and beneficiaries of charities in grouped parishes so as to preserve the separate rights of each parish (Sec. 38 (3), Act of 1894).

Grouping, establishing, or dissolving a parish council or a group of parishes (Sec. 40, Act of 1894).

Copies of orders must be sent to the Local Government Board, and if affecting local areas or names, to the Board of Agriculture (Sec. 71, Act of 1894), any authority affected may petition against an order within six weeks (Sec. 36, Act of 1894).

Parish Councils can be established by the County Council in parishes with a population of less than 300 (Sec. 1), and separate parishes can be grouped together (Sec. 3). The County Council can determine the number of Councillors for each parish (Sec. 3 (1)); divide parishes into wards (Sec. 18) ; alter areas or boundaries generally (Sec. 36) as well as under the adoptive Acts (Sec. 53 (4)) ; name divided parishes or groups of parishes (38 (1)) ; order a new election where the parish council is unable to act, or is not properly or completely elected (Sec. 47 (5) and 48 (5)) ; remove disqualification of parish councillors in certain cases of work or contracts (Sec. 46 (1)) ; consent or otherwise to any borrowing or the incurring of any expense by the Parish council which will involve a loan, and lend money to parish councils (Sec. 12). All these sections relate to the Local Government Act, 1894.

Racecourse Licensing Act, 1879, only applies to places within 10 miles of Charing Cross and in which area it is unlawful for a horse race to be held without a license.

Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876.—County Councils may enforce the provisions of this Act or may contribute towards the cost of its enforcement by others so as to prohibit drainage into streams from manufactories (Sec. 4), mines (Sec. 5). Joint committees may be formed for carrying out the Act (Sec. 14, Act of 1888).

Rural District Councils.—The County Council may alter the number and regulate the retirement of members of rural district councils (Sec. 60); apply to the Local Government Board to confer additional powers on rural district councils (Sec. 25); take over the powers of rural district councils where they fail to perform their duties with regard to the proper sewerage and water supply of any parish (Sec. 57), or the protection of rights of way and roadside wastes (Sec. 80); employ district councils as their agents for any administrative business in matters arising in or affecting the interests of its own district (Sec. 64); recover the expenses of district councils in default from such councils (Sec. 63). All these sections relate to the Local Government Act, 1894.

Theatre Licenses must be obtained for all houses or places in which stage plays are performed publicly except theatres having letters patent from the Crown.

Tramways Act, 1870.—The County Council is the "road authority" for main roads in respect of tramways (Sec. 3).

Travelling Expenses.—The auditor of the West Riding County Council accounts passed the expenses of a group of members and officials incurred in the inspection of bridges and the engineering plant at an asylum, and also expenses of members attending deputations and interviews connected with the Board of Education, but disallowed the expenses of attending congresses on school hygiene housing and the Royal Sanitary Institute with a view to their being considered as test cases.

Among more recent Acts affecting County Councils are the Children Act, dealing with vagrants' children; the provision of Reception Homes for children ordered to be sent to an Industrial School, and the cleansing of verminous children. The Poisons and Pharmacy Act regulates the granting of licenses for the sale of certain poisonous substances for agricultural and horticultural purposes.

WHO MAY VOTE FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Every man and woman on the printed register of County Council electors has one vote and no more.

Their names are put on the register if they have occupied a house, warehouse, counting house, shop, or other qualifying property in the county, for twelve months prior to the 15th July in each year, and have resided in the County or within seven miles thereof during those twelve months.

Persons who are not of full age, or whose rates have not been paid on the 20th July in each year up to the preceding 5th January, or who have received parish relief, or are aliens, are not qualified to be put on the register. Bankrupts and persons directly interested in a contract with the Council cannot serve as County Councillors.

The register of County Council electors is made up each year at the same time as that for Parliamentary elections, but lodgers and service occupiers have no county vote, while women householders as above mentioned have votes. It must be published by the Clerk of the Peace on the 20th December, and comes into force on the following 1st of January.

The names of the County Council electors are all to be found on Division 1 and Divisions 3 of the Register. Copies of the Register will be supplled by the Clerk to the County Council for the whole Parliamentary constituency, at a cost of about 10s., suitable for division into separate districts as required, but separate parts are supplied at a lower charge.

WHO MAY BE CANDIDATES FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Every man and every woman on the register of County Council electors will be qualified as a Candidate for the County Council. Peers owning property in the county, Parliamentary ownership voters, Clergymen and registered women householders and occupiers are included among those eligible.

The Aldermen, who number one-quarter of the Council, are elected by the Councillors themselves at the first annual meeting after the election, and hold office for six years, half of them retiring every third year.

Any Councillor and any Elector who is not a Councillor may be elected as an Alderman.

HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE.

Each county is divided into a number of separate electoral divisions. The candidate need not live in the electoral division for which he is the candidate, so long as he is qualified in any other part of the county.

Any elector who wants to become a candidate must obtain one or more nomination papers from the Clerk to the County Council, or from the Deputy Returning Officer, whose name will be duly advertised in each electoral division two or three weeks before the election. Nomination papers cost nothing, and are dealt with as follows :—

The names (in full), places of abode, and description of the candidate must first be put in, followed by the signatures of ten or more electors.

After the signature of each elector must be written the name of the electoral division or separate polling district with the number of the elector as contained in the printed register. No elector must sign more than one nomination paper.

Nomination papers must be dated.

The Deputy Returning Officer will, at the request of any elector, fill up a nomination paper.

Nomination papers, which may be unlimited in number, must be delivered by the candidate himself, or by his proposer, to the Deputy Returning Officer at the place and time fixed by him for such purpose, being at least seven days before the day of election reckoned exclusive of that day and of the day here mentioned. Any objections to nominations must be made at once and settled by the Returning Officer between 2 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day following the last day for delivering nomination papers. No one but a candidate or his representative can object to a nomination paper and this must be done in writing.

The election day is such day between the first and 8th day of March as the County Council may fix.

No expense is attached to any candidature, except what the candidate chooses to spend of his own free will for electioneering purposes.

Casual Vacancies may arise through death, resignation, cesser of residence or election of a councillor as alderman or chairman. The Chairman of the Council must fix a day for the election of a new councillor within 14 days of the receipt of a notice signed by two electors to the effect that there is a vacancy. No election need be held, however, during the last six months of the triennial period.

HOW THE ELECTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

The election will be carried out just like a Town Council election. Voting will be by ballot ; the poll will be open from 8 till 8 ; no vehicle may be hired for the conveyance of voters to the poll, nor may any vehicle usually let for hire be used for this purpose.

Every bill, poster, placard, or leaflet must bear the name of the printer and publisher.

No meeting in support of the candidate may be held on premises where refreshments of any kind are sold.

No bribery, treating, threats, or undue influence is permitted, and no person may vote twice, or vote for another person. It is illegal to publish an untrue statement of facts about the personal character or conduct of a candidate, or publish a false report of the withdrawal of the candidate.

A candidate who is elected as a County Councillor has three months within which to accept office, which he must do by signing the usual declaration. Councillors are elected for three years from the 8th March, at the end of which period they all retire.

ELECTION EXPENSES.

Election expenses are allowed at the following rate :—

For the first 500 electors not exceeding £25, with an additional amount of 3d. for each elector above the first 500.

Accounts must be kept of all moneys spent in promoting the election of a candidate, and no money must be spent by the candi-

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

date or any person or committee for this purpose except what is returned in the election expenses.

Payments are allowed for printing, advertising, publishing, and distributing addresses and notices; stationery, messages, postage, telegrams, and public meetings.

One committee-room may be paid for in respect of every 2,000 electors or part of 2,000.

One paid Polling Agent may be employed at each polling station.

Two persons may be employed as paid clerks or messengers for every 1,000 electors or incomplete part of 1,000.

It is illegal to pay men for canvassing or showing bills, and paid clerks and messengers are not allowed to vote.

All claims or bills for election expenses must be sent into the candidate or his agent within 14 days after the poll, and if not so sent in will be barred and must not be paid.

All claims for expenses agreed to must be paid within 21 days of the poll, and a complete statement of expenses must be sent to the Clerk of the County Council within 28 days of the poll.

The form of return of election expenses can generally be obtained from the Clerk to the County Council.

Where there have been no expenses the candidate must make a statutory declaration to this effect.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Each County Council is bound to hold 4 meetings yearly, including the annual meeting, and until recently it has been the practice of most Councils to have only these 4 meetings, and to do the greater part of the work, including some of the most important business imaginable, by means of committees, which are not open to the Press, and report only once in three months. This is not a satisfactory practice, and in order that the public may bring under review more frequently the important matters that arise from time to time in connection with finance, sanitary work, the promotion or opposition of Bills in Parliament, and the carrying out of important works, it is absolutely essential that monthly meetings of the Council should be held. One-fourth of the members of the Council constitute a quorum.

NEED FOR WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

Now that women are qualified to serve on County Councils (Qualification of Women, County and Borough Councils Act, 1907) it is well to point out that their services will be most valuable on the Education Committees, the Asylums Committees, and the Sanitary Committees, the latter of which have the administration of the Midwives Act, and matters connected with public health and housing.

COUNTY COUNCIL A B C.

Accounts, 9. Acts of Parliament affecting County Councils, 5. Afforestation, 32. Agricultural Education, 20. Agricultural Organisation Society, 21. Allotments, 22. Analysts, Public, 40. Assessable Values, 13. Assessments for County Rates, 38. Associations for Small Holdings, 28. Asylums for Pauper Lunatics, 39. Audit of Accounts, 11.

Birds, Protection of, 8. Boundaries, Alterations of, 8. Bridges, 33. Bye-laws, 39.

Candidates for County Council, 45. Casual Vacancies, 46. Cinematograph Act, 39. Complaints to County Councils, 39. Co-operative Societies, Formation of, 23. Conservation of Fish, 8. Contagious Diseases of Animals, 39. Continuation Schools, 15. Coroners, Appointment of, 8. Cottages, 6, 30. County Rate Basis, 6, 38. Credit Banks, 29. Cost of Education per Scholar, 16.

Dancing Licenses, 40. Default Powers, 30. Development Act, 31. District Councils, 44.

Education, 14. Election of County Councils, 44. Election Expenses, 46. Electors for County Council Purposes, 44. Elementary Education, 16. Estate Duty Grant, 9. Exchequer Contribution, 9. Excise Licenses, 9. Expenditure, 11.

Fair Wages, 36. Finance, 9. Fish, Conservation of, 8. Food and Drugs, Sale of, 40. Footpaths, Protection of, 40.

Game Licenses, 40. Gasmeters, Regulation and Supervision, 8. General Work of County Councils, 8. Grants for Education, 10. Grants to Secondary Schools, 18. Gun Licenses, 9.

Hackney Carriage Licenses paid to County Funds, 9. Higher Education, 14, 18. Housing and Town Planning Act, 30.

Industrial Schools, 14. Infectious Diseases, 40. Inquiries by County Council, 40. Inspection of Dwellings, 40. Inspection of Food and Drugs, 40. Inspection of Weights and Measures, 41. Inspectors of Licenses, 9. Isolation Hospitals, 41.

Land, Acquisition of, 24. Licenses, 8, 9. Light Railways Act, 6. Loan Debts, 13. Local Government Elections, 8. Local Taxation Account, 9. Loans for Small Holdings, 25. Lunatic Asylums, 39.

Main Roads, 33. Marketing, 6. Male Servants' Licenses, 9. Medical Inspection, 42. Medical Officers of Health, 30. Meetings of County Councils, 47. Midwives, Registration of, 42. Motor Car Licenses, 9. Music and Dancing Licenses, 40.

Nursing Associations, 42.

Old Age Pensions, 1908, 43. Orders by County Councils, 43.

Parish Councils, 43. Parliamentary Bills, 8. Police, Control of, 21. Polling Districts, 7. Powers and Duties of County Councils, 5. Primary Education, 14. Public Rights, 7.

Racecourse Licenses, 43. Rates raised by County Councils, 12. Reformatories, 14. Repairs and Management, Small Holdings, 29. Registration of Voters, 8. Repayment of Expenses of Small Holdings, 26. Rivers Pollution Prevention, 43. Roadside Wastes, 7. Rural Development, 48. Rural District Councils, 44. Rural Education, 15.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 40. Sanitary Inspection, 30. School Maintenance, 16. Schoolrooms, 7. Small Holdings, 22.

Tar-spraying Main Roads, 35. Technical Education, 19. Tenant Right Valuation, 27. Theatre Licenses, 44. Town Planning, 31. Tramways, 44. Travelling Expenses, 44.

Unemployed Workmen's Act, 38.

Voters, Registration of, 8.

Water Supply, Default Powers, 39. Weights and Measures Act, 41. Women and County Councils, 47. Work and Wages, 37.

WIGHTMAN & CO., LTD., Old Westminster Press, Regency Street, S.W.

YC 39498

298558

US 3260
.T4

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY